

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements

During the second week of February, a counter-revolutionary plot was discovered among the former henchmen of President Irigoyen and some officers of the Army, mostly officers who had been placed on the list of "indisponibilidad" since September 6th. last. This subversive movement was headed by no less a personage than General Severo Toranzo, former Inspector General of the Army, who is now a fugitive from justice.

The discovery of the plot and its general outline were not published by the Press until the 20th. and 21st. of February, although the plot which was frustrated almost in its inception was to have taken place on Saturday the 14th. of February. The main facts of the conspiracy appear to have been well known to the police quite some time in advance. They were merely keeping tap on the plotters so that they would have full knowledge of all those connected with the conspiracy. It also appears that the metropolitan newspapers had full knowledge of the events, but, at the request of the Provisional Government, refrained from printing same until the Government had acted.

The details of the plot are as follows:

Several men known to have been in constant and close contact with Ex-President Irigoyen during his administration were found to be frequent visitors at one of the monasteries of the San Franciscan Order here. The authorities reached the conclusion that they were holding secret meetings covering some subversive movement and that these meetings were being held there with the authority of the Prior of the Monastery. Following careful investigation and the accumulation of definite proof of the character of the meetings, the police searched several private houses adjoining the Monastery and found that direct access to it was possible from them by means of concealed doors. Simultaneously it was learned that the houses were also church property. There were comparatively few people involved in the entire plot - about twelve officers, in addition to General Toranzo, three of which were on active duty, some members of the former Security Squadron, now known as the mounted police, two former naval officers, about thirty non-commissioned officers and the rest civilians. The plan was that during the Carnival parades, in the moving picture theatres and other public places, public incidents were to be started demanding the overthrow of the Provisional Government.

The whole plot seems rather ridiculous and childish in the extreme, and it is hard to realize that an officer of the standing and experience of General Toranzo would involve himself, let alone be the leader of such folly. He succeeded in escaping the authorities and has taken up his residence in Uruguay, but we have reason to believe that the authorities intentionally permitted him to escape because

From M.A.Argentina

Report No.4314

March 13, 1931

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements

of the scandal and disgrace the trial of such an officer would bring to the country. Also, it is impossible to see how a court martial could arrive at any other conclusion than that of treason, for which the penalty of death is mandatory. According to the military law, advertisements were placed in all the official journals calling upon General Toranzo to appear before a court martial within the peremptory period of three days, failing which it was announced judgment would be given by default. The acting President of the Provisional Government, Dr. Matias G. Sanchez Sorondo (President Uriburu was in the north of Argentina) issued a decree on February 25th. striking General Severo Toranzo off the list of the Army.

The other conspirators have been arrested and are held in the National Penitentiary. We do not believe they have as yet been brought to trial and are not sure that they will be, but we have been informed that those junior officers of the Army who were involved were summarily dismissed from the service and are being sent to Ushuaia.

The Prior of the Monastery has declared he was innocent of any knowledge of the conspiracy, but that Father Cuello, Director of the College attached to the Monastery, had permitted the gatherings. Father Cuello has been under arrest in the Monastery, but we have reason to believe that he has been or will be deported.

General Luis Dellepiane, the former Minister of War, was for a moment also suspect, but he cleared his name by visiting Dr. Sanchez Sorondo and leaving with him a signed statement wherein he declared his absolute loyalty to the Provisional Government, the acting President of the Republic declaring afterwards that not a shadow of suspicion could be attached to the former Minister's name. As a matter of fact, the former Minister of War has conducted himself with such dignity, always displaying the highest type of loyalty to his country, that he is well thought of by all his brother officers in the Army. Colonel Carlos Smith and Colonel Ernest Baldassarre, who have also been "indisponibilidad", have also professed their ignorance of the plot, but we are not so sure that their statements have been accepted.

There were no senior officers on the active list of the Army involved, but there were three captains - Saavedra, Grisolia and Etchegaray. Captain Alfonso Grisolia, Art., until recently has been Military Attaché to the Argentine Legation in Belgium. He has a brother 1st. lieutenant in the Air Service - Hector Grisolia - who has also been detained, but both of these officers were involved by their older brother - Geronimo Grisolia, a lawyer, who was a national deputy under the old administration

G-2 Report

3020

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements

and a fanatical supporter of President Irigoyen.

We have been assured by officers with whom we are very friendly that the only officers who involved themselves were those whose records in the Army were such that they had nothing to lose and everything to gain.

On Saturday - February 21st. - the Provisional Government issued an official notice to the following effect:

"In view of reports which have appeared in the newspapers, the Provisional Government, desirous that the public should not attribute to the news the importance which it lacks, announces that there have been effected in the Capital by civilians, some officers and non-commissioned officers instigated by General Toranzo, acts preparatory to a plot which in the event of its having materialised would have achieved no result whatever. At the same time the Government affirms that nothing can disturb the public order and the tranquility of the country."

We find without exception in our constant association and investigation that there is absolutely no reason to fear the solidarity of the Government, behind which the Army and Navy are at present standing one hundred percent. The President, his Cabinet and his administration are extremely popular throughout all the provinces as well as here in the capital as was evidenced during a recent trip of the President's to his native Salta and various of the northern provinces including Tucuman, Santa Fe, Jujuy and Cordoba.

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4314

March 13, 1931

THE SECRETARY OF WAR
DIRECTS ANSWERS TO THIS
CABLE AS FOLLOWS:

ADVISE WITHIN 12 HOURS
if answer is unnecessary.

If answer is NOT SENT
WITHIN 7 DAYS REASON
MUST BE STATED.

C. H. BRIDGES,
Major General,
The Adjutant General.

Copies furnished as noted:

G-2 X
TAG V

CABLEGRAM.

RADIOGRAM

Received at the War Department.

April 18, 1931.

3 P. M.

From M.A.A. Buenos Aires

To The Adjutant General.

N 11

Number 68. April 18th.

Government sound solid support of Army. Believe
Navy also. Minister of War and Marine objected to
political activity in Cabinet resignation following.
Political situation clearer. Radicals content.
Conservatives disappointed revolutionary promises
will be adhered to. President will turn over govern-
ment to duly elected person. Radical slate will con-
sider only acceptable candidates. Believe Justo
will be President.

Fleming.

OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
MEMORANDUM

No objection to unlimited
circulation.

2657-L-75

3020.

G-2 Report.

ARGENTINA (POLITICAL).

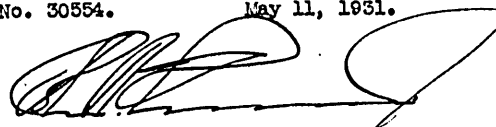
Subject: Situation in Argentina.

A Reuter message from Argentina says that the situation has become so serious in Argentina that the President has ordered several regiments of cavalry to Buenos Aires to suppress the students.

M.A. London.

Report No. 30554.

May 11, 1931.



JOHN R. THOMAS, Jr.,
Colonel, Field Artillery, D.O.L.,
Military Attache.

4-1

7-157-L-75 1931
JUN 7 2

3410

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

Outwardly the political situation remains unchanged since our last report. Ex-President Alvear having arrived in the country, it was thought that a solution would be quickly reached, but it seems now that, for the time being at any rate, they have reached a blank wall. As all the discussions have been within the Radical Party and behind closed doors, we do not know exactly where the trouble lies, but we are prone to think that Sr. Alvear has not proved strong enough to make a decision within his party. He has been pressed on all sides by Anti-Irigoyenists and some of those who were closely associated with President Irigoyen. These latter have endeavored to impress the former President with their good intentions, but the fact still remains that they are not wanted by the better element in their own party, and they will not be accepted by the Provisional Government.

It is the wish of the Provisional Government that the various parties make up their slates before a definite date of election is announced, so that there be no unpleasantness about the accepting of candidates for office, while the Radical Party desire to have an election date set before announcing what their slate will be. While this is good politics and constitutional, it is entirely unsuitable to the Provisional Government for carrying to a successful termination the Revolution of September last, for it might necessitate the refusal on their part to allow undesirable candidates to take office. It is our idea that President Uriburu and General Agustin Justo have conferred on this point and we believe are in accord and that General Justo is at the present time carrying the right of the Provisional Government into the ranks of the Radical Party. It is a foregone conclusion that any Radical nominated will win, and General Justo we feel is determined to put himself up as a candidate for President.

The summing up of the situation today is that the Government is standing to one side and the fight is going on behind the closed door of the Radical Party. It would seem that the next move is on their part.

As is usual in these cases, rumours fly thick and fast, but most of them are without foundation. The election in the Province of Buenos Aires ended with no faction having sufficient majority to elect a Governor. There has, therefore, been a rumour to the effect that the Electoral College may be adjourned until after national legislative elections have taken place. There was also a rumour of a dictatorship under General Justo, but we can find no basis for this report as yet. One other rumour

G-2 report

3410

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions

(b) Current Situations.

was circulated to the effect that Sr. Alvear is returning to Europe, but this he denies.

As the Army and Navy are passive, and still supporting the Government, we feel that a peaceful solution of the political problem will be reached within ten days.

After we had completed this report, we were advised by a most reliable source that a peaceful solution of the political situation has been reached and that important announcements will be made within the next two or three days.

Steming
From H.A. Argentina

Report No. 4351

May 8, 1931.

3-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

After another ten days of waiting, the Radical Party finally published its "manifesto" for which everyone had been looking with great anticipation, only to discover that it is an empty statement fulfilling the expectations of nobody. That it actually does, is to call for a reorganization of the Radical Party without stating what the aims and objects of that party are to be, and does not in any way overcome the objections of the average citizen to the presence within the Radical ranks of that element which brought about its downfall during the last administration.

It is a keen disappointment to the business men both foreign and domestic who felt that a bold, clean statement by the Radical Party at this time would clear up the atmosphere and assure the early return of a respected and substantial government. Included in this disappointment, of course, are all the banking institutions who need something to bolster them up.

While the manifesto does in one part state that "it accepts the severe lesson taught by recent events", it does not go further and repudiate definitely the men and methods deposed on September 6th. We are reliably informed that the present manifesto is unsatisfactory to the Provisional Government and is not considered an assurance against the return of the elements in power during the last administration.

We understand that of the thirty signatories, sixteen were Anti-personalistas and fourteen personalistas. We wish to call attention, however, to the fact that the two strongest and most prominently-mentioned Radicals of today, both rabid Anti-personalistas, and a great number of their followers, do not appear among the signatories. We refer especially to Dr. Eduardo Laurencena and General Agustin P. Justo.

One very encouraging statement which does not seem to entirely agree with the manifesto was made a few days preceding its publication by Dr. Alvear when he stated to a member of the Press - "You may tell your readers that Argentine Radicals are resolved to exclude from their councils the men directly connected or closely associated with the deposed regime." We were also lead to believe just before publication of this manifesto that Dr. Alvear and Dr. Laurencena were in complete accord.

While Dr. Alvear's statement to the Press appeared to be a death blow to the united Conservative and Democratic hopes for the next few years, the manifesto again brings them out of the depths with the hopes that they might unite in a new party to defeat the old line of Radicals.

Everything is quiet here and orderly, and, as before, the Army and Navy are steadfastly and in a dignified

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4354

May 20, 1931.

ARRE TINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

way backing up the Government, which they propose to do until the political parties can make up their mind to do the right thing. We have interviewed this morning leaders in both the "Legion 25 de Mayo" and the "Legion Civica" and they are in accord with the Army that the only change that would be allowed would be one for the better. Rumors fly thick and fast and the whispering propaganda campaign has, of course, made some business interests nervous, but there is no immediate cause for any alarm and we are still looking for further political developments of a more encouraging and definite nature within the next two weeks.

As this manifesto says nothing, we are compelled to agree with a prominent member of the Press - "La Frontera" - that its only use is to relegate it to the ash heap, and remain as much in the dark as we were before it was issued.

We give below our free translation of the summary of the text of the manifesto:

"As members of the Union Civica Radical, we appeal to our followers and to the public sentiment to help realize its complete reorganization in accordance with its organic chart, for the purpose of serving the Republic with lofty patriotism and of preserving the achievements of a democratic and social order which were obtained through its efforts.

We place this undertaking under the auspices of the declarations contained in the organic chart of Radicalism, as the expression of the will of its founders and with the purpose of carrying them out. According to those declarations - La Union Civica Radical is an essentially impersonal political organization, whose ranks can be joined by all citizens who wish to adhere to its program; this program was formulated in order to re-establish the institutional life of the country, and to insure peace and progress through the honest exercise of the law, the purity of administrative morals, the effective exercise of the sovereignty of the people and deep respect for the autonomy of States and municipal districts, which are the fundamental bases of our governmental system and of national existence.

The grave and uncertain hour which the Republic is going through demands the organization of all the parties. The Union Civica Radical not only cannot avoid this demand, but, as a representative of a great public and a democratic public force, is compelled to satisfy it without delay in order that it may take the right stand in any emergency.

It is urgently necessary to bring back to normal the institutional life of the Republic. The Republic

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4354

May 20, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: 1931 Political Conditions.

(a) Current Situation.

cannot develop its economic activities or make any progress on account of grave problems of all kinds which are deeply affecting the spiritual and material life of the country. The solution of these problems can only be obtained through the harmonious action of its constitutional powers.

The recent decrees convening elections for November 30th., the unjustified postponement of the date set for the election of the executive and legislative powers of the Province of Buenos Aires, the postponement of elections in the Province of Santa Fe and Cordoba on the eve of their realization, unnecessarily rendering useless the efforts of the parties, and the maintenance of a state of siege and martial law with severely restrictive measures against individual freedom and that of the Press, are facts which, due to the uncertainty in which they leave the election for President and Vice-President of the Nation, the institutional conflicts which might result from their possible application, and their contradiction to other decisions of the Provisional Government, contribute to emphasize in the conscience of every citizen the necessity to seek in the organization of his party the most efficient means to protect his rights as such, and to afford the country all the necessary aid towards restoring as soon as possible the full exercise of political freedom and the defence of the guarantees consecrated by the Constitution.

Governments "de facto" resulting from revolutionary movements, should have a limited duration, as well as limited power, under penalty of substituting a legal regime with an arbitrary imposition of force. Only in exceptional cases in her history has Argentina acknowledged such governments. Radicalism which can justly claim the honor of having struggled on every ground for the truth of its institutions, feels prompted to demand their re-establishment, in orderly and legal fashion so that the people may regain their sovereignty and exercise it in freely choosing their government, independently of tutorships or revisions which are incompatible with culture and civic dignity.

In urging the reorganization of Radicalism throughout the Republic to carry out its institutional purposes under the inspiration of its original constitution, with our eyes towards the future and its exigencies, we also have recourse to the lesson taught us by recent events, and we declare before the country our desire to avoid the repetition of its causes through the loyal fulfillment of our program.

In the work of reconstructing our Party, and the greater and more difficult task of directing the destiny of the country, we desire that Radicalism may bring about a democratic regime, which is the government of the majority exercised by those of greatest integrity and capacity.

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4354

May 20, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

Therefore, we want a party with a program, organized and working in accordance with the regulations established by its internal statutes, regulated by the vote of its directive council, sanctioning all those who represent it in public posts, and, as the lofty expression of its will, we desire well-controlled governments of responsibility and which will be morally and intellectually capable of working efficiently for the greatest well-being and the highest honor of the Republic.

Our patriotic desires as citizens will be satisfied if the Union Civica Radical, which is well fortified in adversity, conscious of its responsibilities, rejuvenated with new youthful contingents, free from all hatreds, and with its traditional sentiment of national solidarity and patriotic consideration for the armed institutions of the Republic, responds in spirit and action to the imperative needs of the moment, and the exigencies of opinion, and adjusting its reorganization as announced, returns to its old civic ideals and its democratic practices, based on a concrete governmental program, and follows a policy of institutional order, of social peace and administrative reconstruction, as homage justly rendered to the aspirations of the Nation and to the greatness of its destiny.

With these sentiments and these purposes which before being expressed were already embodied in the fervent desire of union within the ranks of our party, we tender this invitation to all those of our followers who share our sentiments and we extend it to those citizens who without having belonged to our party may wish to collaborate in its patriotic activities, and, at the same time, we wish to recommend the constitution of a National Council or Organization, which will support and direct the corresponding work."

Since the writing of this report, there has been a persistent rumour reported to emanate from the leader of the Liga Patriotica that the Provisional President, for the sake of a peaceful political solution would turn the Government over to a disinterested responsible party, acceptable to all factions, who would form a coalition cabinet friendly to all interests, and call for immediate elections. We do not believe such an action as this would be opposed by the armed forces, but we also believe that such an action would have to be absolutely voluntary and inspired by the patriotic motives of the President, because the armed forces have assured him of their loyalty.

We have not been able to secure from any military source a confirmation of this rumour so far.


From N.A. Argentina

Report No. 4354

May 20, 1931.

4-1 30 2657.L.75 1931
74

EX-100

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

1) Current Situations.

The political situation seems to be clearing up, although the Personalistas within the Radical Party are stubbornly opposed to giving way to the Provisional Government and make a definite announcement of the expulsion of all men closely associated with the former administration.

The refusal on the part of the Personalistas split the Radical Party into halves, and it appeared as though they would approach the elections divided. The Personalista group has been headed by the ex-first magistrate - Dr. Marcelo Alvarez, while the other aggregation is headed by Dr. Eduardo Laurencena and Dr. Luis Etcheverehere, of the Province of Entre Rios, and General Agustin Justo, who also is a native of Entre Rios. It is known that as a compromise, the Administration has approved of General Justo as a Radical candidate, and it now looks as though Dr. Laurencena will be the "big man" in the Radical Party to have the final "say-so" on who shall run. (See our Report No. 4251 of November 7, 1930).

The Democratic Party has indicated to the latter group that they will back up their ticket. The net result has been that the group headed by Dr. Laurencena has issued their manifesto denouncing those closely associated with the former Government and are willing to proceed on their own, knowing that the Personalistas themselves cannot help but again split into two or three more parties on the various issues involved.

In fact, I have been reliably informed by the Radical Senator from La Rioja, Sr. Vallejos, that he has been attending the Personalista meetings during the past two weeks and that everywhere there have been two or three splits in the local Personalista parties, even in those places that were united in the late provincial elections. Hence, it looks as though Dr. Laurencena held the reins of power and his ticket is - Justo for President, Laurencena for Vice-President. This is a tremendously smart political move, as in this case he could control the Government, being a much stronger character than General Justo, for the next six years, and then become the President for another six.

G-2 Report

4-1
JUL 23 2657-L-75
75
3410 DEPARTMENT

ARGENTINA (Political)

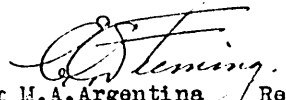
Subject: Local Political Conditions

(b) Current Situations

There has been no change in the political situation since our last report, but we did expect an announcement of candidates before this time.

The Radical Party are apparently still adjusting their differences, but General Agustin Justo informed us personally the other day that the situation looked entirely clear and we might look for an announcement of candidates before the end of this month. We asked him about the attitude towards the present Government and he said that everyone seemed very well satisfied and that the Government would proceed normally to elections. He did state, however, that it was his opinion that the Government should raise the state of siege. We cannot entirely agree with him on this point, as we believe the state of siege alone is keeping certain lawless elements in check, who would run wild in their endeavour to embarrass this Government if they were so permitted. On the other hand, the state of siege is strangling the Press, and, naturally, is not popular in political circles.

If anything of importance develops before I leave, I shall add to this report in the next pouch.


From M.A. Argentina Report No. 4392

July 3, 1931.

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations:

The political situation remains unchanged. On the 9th of July there was a Te Deum and review of the troops to which all the officials and the diplomatic corps were invited. General Uriburu and his staff were once more accorded a tremendous ovation by the public and their popularity has not seemed to wane. He is solidly maintaining the attitude that the Provisional Government represents no political party; that the provincial elections will take place as stated in November, but that unless the parties can get together on a representative candidate whose past record and associations will make him acceptable, there will be no elections for the President. In this connection, the Provisional Government has made it known that any one of several candidates are acceptable, for instance, Mr. Laurencena, General Justo or Mr. Alvear, as well as Mr. Julio Rocca, and some others. The difficulty at present seems to be that the parties are not getting together as they should. However, as we stated in our last report, General Justo advised us that they would probably come to a decision during the current month. He himself is still apparently leading the field as the compromise candidate.

At the annual banquet of "Camraderie" celebrated by the Army and Navy on the 7th of July, there were 1600 officers seated for dinner, which comprises the entire officer force in and about the vicinity of Buenos Aires, Army and Navy, both active and retired. The President again reiterated his views and an admiral, speaking for the Navy, and the Chief of the 1st Division, Colonel Rodriguez, speaking for the Army, assured the President of the loyal backing of the entire armed forces, and their statements were made with tremendous ovations from all those present.

The two latest occasions, both the 7th of July and the 9th of July so demonstrated to the politician that he is wasting his time by not coming to a decision, though there have been several conciliatory expressions in the Press, the most noteworthy being by Dr. Alvear. We quote below an open letter written through the Press to Dr. Laurencena who criticized the Provisional Government's attitude in not announcing the elections for the Presidency and for not having raised the state of siege:

"I have read your letter with deep interest and serious attention, as much for the gravity of the question treated as for my high conception of the writer, whose prestige entitles him to public consideration.

"I quite agree with you that the situation of the country is difficult, though much less grave than that preceding September 6th, and also believe that it is an obligation to comply with duty regardless of cost; but I lament that you contemplate the actual political panorama through the short lens of party vision, necessarily

From M.A.Argentina

Report No.4401

July 17, 1931.

OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
M. L. INT. DIV.

4-1
AUG 8 2657-2.75-1361
3410 76

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

therefore unilateral. You start by falling into the error of believing that you are seeing men and things at a distance, aloof from the daily struggle, on a different plane. But only yesterday you governed a province - and I can say it without any desire to flatter you - and governed it well, whilst today you are at the head of a party with the heat and fever this entails. You are therefore identified with its interests, its tendencies and its viewpoints, which I emphasise as the origin of the errors contained in your letter.

"You impute to the Provisional Government all or the greater part of the prevailing political malaise and on this head point out that "the constitution of a non-political government deprived it from the start of control of the revolutionary political forces" created a government politically weak and finally - I stress this - "set up a compromise of honor on your part to not influence in the slightest degree the political solution."

"You give thus a clear cut opinion, adding that acts of my government, which you do not specify, did not correspond to the non-political character, which has been the cause of loss of prestige.

"The political malaise is due only and exclusively to the groups which worked and work as parties. The situation as on the 6th September was not due solely to the actuation of Sr. Irigoyen and his circle. It would be a false criterion to assume that one individual or even a small circle could account for the entire transformation of the country and the decomposition of its political force.

"These opposition groups, whatever their tendency or denomination, were powerless to curb the excesses of the personalista party, to gravitate efficiently in Congress although in the Senate there was an opposition majority where constitutionally there is a larger control on the president's actuation. These minority groups occupied themselves with electoral matters to the exclusion of the graver and more permanent interests of the country, following the Irigoyen methods, copied them in electioneering with speechifying, projects and promises.

"These same groups were accomplices in the paralysis that afflicted Congress cooperating in an interminable discussion of diplomas and making mountains out of their local molehills without paying the least attention to public affairs.

"Many of these groups managed by an oligarchy figured as veritable electoral syndicates in the distribution of seats of the minority. For this reason

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

opinion did not follow them because they did not inspire faith. It was this lack of prestige of the opposition that contributed to maintain Irigoyen in power, debarring the formation of a powerful party of opposition to the personalismo.

"In the face of this disconsolatory spectacle, without hope of reaction from the political parties, and seeing the country a prey to dishonor and insolvency, a large number of army and navy officers did me the honor to put their services at my disposal for the salvation of the country through a military movement.

"With them and as the aspiration of the movement which could not have for basis the dethroning of one set in order to replace it by another, I made the solemn resolution that the revolution should serve to avert, or at least make difficult, the reproduction of the evils we were bearing, procuring the requisite institutional reforms. For my own part I spontaneously renounced being candidate in any form in the government to succeed the revolution, as a guarantee of good faith and patriotism.

"On September 6th the mass of the people, not the political groups who had no share in the event, fell in with the military column under my command, and we entered the Government House acclaimed by a multitude.

"Thus was the Revolution made. These were no "revolutionary parties" because none of the parties intervened in the preparation nor execution. You are therefore in error in speaking of "revolutionary forces". The Revolution was against a system and not against a man, a system and political state in decomposition and of which all the opposition parties together with the personalistas formed part.

"For these reasons when preparing the revolt I refused all compromise with politicians, which attitude provoked in some a reaction to defeat the patriotic movement. Some of these leaders who had proffered aid and claimed positions on finding that all the preparations were complete, at the last moment perorated on the gathering cloud which they qualified as more menacing than the Irigoyen Government.

"Thus it was that some of those heads of the parties you call revolutionary tried to prevent the rising before it took place, disappointed because there was to be no booty.

"For these reasons and under such circumstances was the Government non-political because deriving

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

from a non-political movement. It should be so and is so. If I had made the mistake of forming a party Government, or a coalition, it would have fallen at the first electoral defeat.

"The strength of the Provisional Government consists of what you mistakenly style its weakness; that it is above and not subordinate to parties.

"I have maintained this position. You speak ambiguously of 'acts of government which did not harmonize with its non-political character,' but you do not give me the opportunity to rebut the insinuation, neglecting to specify the acts alluded to."

"I have complied and will continue to comply with my solemn undertaking not to allow the incubation of official candidates. My intervention will be limited to the frustration of designs on the aims of the revolution, to impeding with all my power the return to the system which it overthrew whether with the same actors or others of a like character in disguise. I shall do as General Mitre did when he vetoed as President of the Republic the candidates whom he considered representative of a reaction in favour of the regimen and men routed at Pavón."

"Another of my errors according to you, is 'not constituting rapidly the National and provincial governments.' From this basis you claim that the situation now is worse than during the days following the Revolution, that the prolongation of this state of affairs complicates and aggravates because it separates us from the best solutions and makes others impossible."

"Had the revolution been the achievement of what you call 'revolutionary parties,' logically these would have seized power by immediately holding one-sided elections. Such a condition would have ended as a mutiny like so many others in this continent when military forces have been seduced into dethroning enemies to raise their friends. But neither the Argentine Army nor Navy would have lent themselves to it. We have made this great movement with entire unselfishness to destroy a system and in order that the country purged and normalized can defend itself against demagogues and against a dictatorial president by institutional reforms. To this end and in compliance with the plan of the Revolution, I shall submit as first measure to Congress the constitutional reforms already made public."

"The parties in opposition to the personalists had no horizon beyond getting into power - I am not referring to yours in Entre Rios which has been and continues in power with evident right - and those parties with minor exceptions only intrigue to weaken the Provisional Government, in the expectation of bending it to their wishes."

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

"The political anarchy which you believe was provoked by not calling elections immediately, does not spring from this, because it existed prior to the Revolution. It had other and more remote origin and more complex causes to which all the parties contributed."

"You qualify as a lamentable error on my part the exclusion of the Presidential Election from the Convocation of November 8th, and anticipate that this amplification would be feasible if the parties would reorganize and proclaim formulas that would mean a guarantee. This would be a jump in the dark. It would present the danger of the most powerful groups offering at the eleventh hour surprise formulas which could neither be discussed nor analysed, and which the public would have to vote blindly. The parties should reorganize tranquilly, but at present all are passing through a crisis so intense that none can proclaim a formula, which means that a postponement favours all alike."

"As the best proof that you yourself recognize the unfortunate incapacity of the parties to propose candidates you suggest: 'What is advisable at present is to clear the ambient for which one of the most efficacious means is to oblige the parties to proclaim their presidential formulas.' You admit in this my view of the incapacity actually of the parties, but it would not be democratic to force candidates on the public by parties in visible decomposition. The remedy would be one thousand times worse than the disease."

"Before going further I would remind you that I have repeatedly stated that the State of Siege will be raised in time for the parties to make their electoral campaigns. This measure as applied by the Government does not deprive the parties nor the citizens of liberty or rights, since they can arrange and discuss their platform freely, and analyse the reforms projected. It is only a weight on agitators and those who conspire against the Revolution and its consequences. Contrary to what you declare, the state of the country still requires this safeguard which does not apply to the parties you refer to, but only to those who appeal for its revocation to hide the decomposition of their elements and their total loss of prestige."

"You cite the case of Entre Rios as against that of Buenos Aires, but it only proves that where order reigns the cause of the revolution triumphed, whereas in Buenos Aires where there is alleged lack of liberty the opponents of the Revolution were successful. Had the Provisional Government exerted pressure this could not have happened."

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

"Finally you insinuate that some may think that the militarized Civic Legion is intended to prolong my stay in the government, which for me is anything but a bed of roses. Such suspicions, however, do not trouble me. I shall not stop to disprove them, nor to defend the Legion, an absolutely non-political organization whose only aim is the defence of the 'patria', the highest that any could have."

"What I regret is that you should have voiced it as the echo of the harangues of demagogues who see in the Legion the strongest bulwark against the system which poisoned the country in these latter times. On this account they threaten and attack it."

"I will ask you to read the decree which gives official recognition to the Legion and there you will find fully described its characteristic phases. I will not further extend this note, but there is much that still could be said to dissipate all the errors in which you incur. I do thank you for your frankness which has not displeased, just as I believe you will appreciate the bluff sincerity of the soldier answering you."

There is a strong suspicion afoot that both the letter of Dr. Laurencena and the letter of President Uriburu were more or less staged to bring out before the public just what has been holding up the issue of Presidential elections. This suspicion is strengthened by the fact that Laurencena and Justo have been so close and on such friendly terms with the President.



4-1 2657-4-75 1931
77
3020

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements.

On Monday, the 20th of July, 1931, with the murder of the commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Lino H. Montiel, a rising of the Ninth Regiment of Infantry stationed in the city of Corrientes took place. The movement was headed by Lieutenant Colonel Gregorio Pomar, former military aide-de-camp to ex-President Irigoyen. Official statements to the Press indicated that about 350 men were implicated in the affair.

By prompt and effective methods, the Provisional Government soon quelled the insurrection and by the morning of the 22nd the situation was completely in hand.

According to an official statement issued by the Ministry of War, it appears that men associated with the deposed regime conspired to start a national movement from the Province of Corrientes. They chose as their principal tool the above mentioned officer who, in turn was able to exert influence over other officers and non-commissioned officers by reason of long service in the regiment that revolted. There were some civilians in the conspiracy and headed by their own leaders pledged themselves to support the garrison in Corrientes city when the movement started.

According to information in possession of the Provisional Government, most of the military men participating in the affair were persuaded to break their oath of allegiance to the flag by promises of promotion and other rewards. Personal political interests are said to have actuated the civilians.

The revolt had barely commenced before news of it was transmitted to Buenos Aires. There was a hurried consultation of Ministers, and it was decided that, while the movement could not be regarded as of importance, it would be wise to send strong forces against the rebels in order to oblige immediate capitulation, thus saving possible loss of life or other casualties. Troops, naval and military aircraft, and two small naval vessels were therefore ordered to proceed against the provincial capital.

After the Chief of the 9th Regiment was shot dead by the rebels, the next step appears to have been the taking over of the administrative building in Corrientes city. Attempts were made to force Dr. Dell'Oro Maini, Federal Interventor, to sign his resignation, but the official stoutly refused. His example was followed by his Ministers and other public functionaries, all of whom were deprived of facilities for communicating with the outer world.

From L.A. Argentina Report No. 4406 August 1, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements.

Luckily enough, Dr. Dell'Oro Maini had managed, before being made a prisoner, to pass the word of the happening to the Minister of the Interior in Buenos Aires.

Receipt in Corrientes city of the news of the garrison's revolt was followed by the appearance on the streets of civilians associated with the deposed regime who shouted out to the residents that a national movement had commenced against the Provisional Government, that a triumphant revolutionary army was marching on the province, and that the men who had been rejected on September 6 were about to return.

In spite of the frenzied yells of the Irigoyenists, the population, for the greater part, remained perfectly calm. Most business premises were closed down for the day, but some were broken open and looted by the political malcontents.

The civilian rebels then presented themselves at the quarters of the garrison, where, at their own request, they were supplied with arms and ammunition from the Ministry of War's deposits. After that they set out in parties, the main body in the direction of Resistencia, where looting and brutal assaults are reported to have occurred.

Lt. Colonel Pomar and his supporters seemed quite certain of their ultimate success until the moment during Tuesday morning when they learned that land, air and naval forces were concentrating for the purpose of their overthrow. Shortly afterwards Pomar abandoned the administrative building, and, together with another officer, two hundred of the revolting soldiers, and a quantity of arms and ammunition, boarded the motor barge he had prepared the previous day, setting out at full speed up-river.

If the announcement of the outbreak of the movement had spread rapidly, the news that it had ended travelled even more quickly. The Federal Interventor in his report to the Minister of the Interior, states that the people of Corrientes showed their true sentiments by rushing from their houses and gathering in a vast throng in front of the governmental building, where they raised repeated cheers for General Uriburu, and for the ideals on which the movement of September 6th was based. The public rejoicing continued throughout the night and was again manifest when the city commenced its normal everyday life on the 22nd.

Orders for the pursuit of the motor barge carrying the fugitives were immediately issued by General Bruce commanding the Third Military District. He gave

From M.A. Argentina Report No. 4406 August 1, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(d) Armed evolutionary movements.

instructions to several army air pilots to take part in the chase, charging them, in the event of sighting the vessel, to bomb it if the company aboard refused to capitulate. The barge in question is speedy, however, and cover given by riverside foliage permitted it to reach the Paraguayan shore, where Lt. Colonel Pomar and the two hundred soldiers with him landed and made as if to march inland. They were detained by the Paraguayan border guard at Humaita and held while the civil delegate of the town communicated with the authorities in Asunción. The Government replied that the fugitives might be granted asylum provided they abandoned their arms, which consisted of six small field guns, six machine-guns, and the usual small arms. Lt. Colonel Pomar at once consented and the fugitives quartered themselves temporarily in the locality.

Statements from the Paraguayan Press are to the effect that further measures to be taken depend upon the legal negotiations which it is assumed the Argentine authorities will now start concerning the rebels.

The Corrientes mutiny seems to have met with expressions of repudiation in many directions and among the rank and file of the Army and Navy.

Indication of the type of man involved in the conspiracy is given in a report on the career of Lieutenant Colonel Pomar given out by the Ministry of War. The fugitive rebel was military aide-de-camp to ex-President Irigoyen up to September 6. When General Uriburu entered Government House on that fateful day Lt. Colonel Pomar was there in company with the deposed Vice-President, Dr. Martinez. Dr. Martinez had just completed his letter of resignation when the officer stepped forward and faced General Uriburu. "My General", he said, "I have been loyal to the deposed Government and intend to follow the same policy with regard to the authorities now taking charge of the affairs of the country." General Uriburu replied: "I congratulate you. Your words and actions are worthy of a soldier", and with that the General and his subordinate exchanged a warm handshake.

Some weeks later, Lt. Col. Pomar was attached to the First Military District as Judge of Instruction. For reasons not revealed he was called upon, soon afterwards, to appear before a military tribunal of honor, and although the charges against him could not be proved, the chairman of the court, Colonel Acame, said: "The charges against you are not proven, but I have no desire that you should remain in the division under my orders. Seek a fresh appointment yourself, otherwise I shall ask for your transfer."

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4406

August 1, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements.

Pomar, impressed by the words of his superior officer, said: "I am an honest and faithful soldier. I swear by the badges I wear that I have a single purpose in life: to do my duty as a soldier."

Transferred three months later to the Third Military District, commanded by General Bruce, he was suspected of having associations in undesirable quarters. General Bruce asked him why he was frequenting certain company, and Pomar answered that he was concentrating all his activities upon his proper military duties. The oath he took on this third occasion was so convincing that all further suspicions fell away from him, and he was eventually selected for the responsible post he held until Monday, July 20th.

Thus, in addition to his original oath of allegiance to the flag, and thrice repeated oath of loyalty to the Provisional Government, he had no scruples about heading the movement which terminated in his flight to Paraguay.

The Provisional Government issued decrees on the afternoon of the 23rd appointing the special Court Martial to judge the military who took part in the uprising and a military judge of instruction to try those who had direct or indirect participation in the movement.

The military tribunal is composed of the following members: President, Colonel Jos. Morales Bustamante; Fiscal, Lieutenant Col. Justo Salazar Collado; Counsellor, Dr. Alfredo Laigle; Secretaries, Major Antonio Berardo and Major Miguel A. Pascaro.

For Military Judge of Instruction the Government has appointed Colonel Julio C. Costa.

Still later, on the afternoon of the 25th, it was announced that the Provisional Government had decided to accord clemency to fugitive soldiers who participated in the rising in the Province of Corrientes, provided they demonstrated their repentance by giving themselves up.

Military aircraft manoeuvred over a wide region of the province dropping printed copies of the offer of leniency, which, signed on behalf of the Government by General Bruce, read as follows: "In exercise of my powers as commander of the 3rd Division of the Argentine Army, order: Non-commissioned officers and men surrendering voluntarily to any officer in the division will be exempt from trial by court-martial and all other punishment."

It is stated that publication of the order was received with great rejoicing, a large number of families

From M.A. Argentina Report No. 4406 August 1, 1931.

G-2 Report

3020

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements.

having been caused deep anxiety by the conduct of young male members who joined in the rising.

From L.A. Argentina Report No. 4406

August 1, 1931.

Antonio R. Lulio
Clerk:

OFFICE CHIEF
MILITARY
4-1 AUG 25 2657-L-75 1931
78
WAR DEPARTMENT
3020

2-2 Report

ARGENTINA (political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(c) Radicalism. 2657-L-75/17

A few days after the uprising in the Province of Corrientes (See our Report No.4406) which from a military viewpoint was an isolated affair, the Prefecture-General of Police issued an official communique showing the part played by politics in that affair and in a general conspiracy involving many prominent politicians such as: Dr.Marcelo T. Alvarez, ex-President of the Republic; Dr.Honorio Pueyrredon, Radical candidate for the Governorship of the Province of Buenos Aires; Dr. Mario Guido, candidate for the Vice-Governorship; Dr.Carlos M.Noel, former Intendente of Buenos Aires, and Dr.Jose P.Tamborini, ex-Minister of the Interior. Just how far men of such prominence in the affairs of the nation are implicated in the conspiracy is a much discussed question at the present moment.

We quote below the communique as published:

"Without prejudice to the investigation now being conducted by the competent military authority in the Province of Corrientes, the Political Division of the Prefecture General of Police in Buenos Aires is at present studying diverse proofs and information which have come into its possession and which throw some light on the objects and ultimate aims of last week's movement in the province."

"In the month of January last, Comisario-Inspector Leopoldo Lugones (jr.) acting on instructions received from Dr.David Uriburu, Sub-Prefect-General of Police, established vigilance over the offices numbered 440-41 in the Galeria General Guemes. Eventually the offices were raided by Comisario-Inspector Lugones and a group of his assistants, a number of arrests being made, the men taken into custody including Santiago M.Peralta, tenant of the premises, and formerly Inspector General of Schools to the National Council of Education. Peralta was closely associated with ex-President Irigoyen, and with many of the latter's most intimate friends and collaborators."

"The results of the cross-examination of the prisoners were kept secret until today for reasons it is considered unnecessary to divulge. But now that the movement in Corrientes is over, it is regarded as convenient to permit the public to know the nature of the business transacted at the meetings in the Galeria Guemes."

2657-L-107/2
"It may be mentioned by way of introduction that Peralta himself presided over the secret gatherings. Among those usually present were Salvador de Almenara, who presided in turn over the notorious 'Congress' of Llavalleja, Uruguay, (See our Report No.4402); Edelmiro Serra, a deportee; Rafael Gonzalez, President of the Federacion de Juventud de la Union Civica Radical; Luis Izotta, former counsellor to the Custom House Workers' Union; Luis Fascio, former employee in the

From M.A. Argentina

Report No.4407

August 1, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(c) Radicalism.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Pedro Rosada, and the former lieutenants of Administration Benito R. Flores and Gerardo Valotta. The three last-mentioned persons figured later in the frustrated conspiracy headed by General Severo Toranzo."

"At the same time it was established that among those who had attended the meetings in the Galeria Guemes on earlier occasions were Jose B. Abalos, former Minister of Public Works; Armando Antille, ex-Senator for the Province of Santa Fe; Arturo Poblet Videla, Lt. Col. Regino P. Lescano, Lt. Col. Gregorio Pomar, Jose Patricio Roibon, and a number of 'caudillos' from Buenos Aires and the provinces."

"One month after the Revolution of September 6, all the men referred to, responding to an invitation issued by Peralta for them to make use of his offices, commenced to congregate there and to discuss revolutionary plans for bringing to an end the present regime. The discussions were exhaustive in character, and there were never more than half a dozen or so present at each meeting in order to avoid creating suspicion on the part of neighbours."

"The largest meeting ever held in the offices was attended by fifteen men, but Peralta was an active president, and sometimes received and attended at length to as many as fifty visitors in a single day."

"It is indeed a suggestive coincidence that the majority of the persons who were in contact with Peralta should appear now to have been complicated in the movement which, started in the Province of Corrientes, was intended to spread throughout the length and breadth of the Republic."

"Following exhaustively lengthy cross-examinations which lasted approximately eight days, it was possible to learn with some degree of exactitude the details of Peralta's plans. His first idea was to constitute a delegation to wait upon members of the Provisional Government for the purpose of soliciting the immediate convocation of national elections and full liberty for the Radical Party to hold public and private meetings. That was in the month of January. It had been decided in the event of the petition being rejected, or the Government refusing to receive the delegates, to plan at once a revolutionary movement. But the task was still incomplete when the Political Division of the Prefecture-General of Police intervened, arresting the conspirators. The plot was thus frustrated for the time being."

"When the detectives who raided the offices in the Galeria Guemes searched the cupboards of the premises, they found a pencil sketch of a type of bomb intended for use with aeroplanes. The sketch was examined by experts who reached the conclusion that it was technically perfect."

From M.A. Argentina Report No. 4407 August 1, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(c) Radicalism.

Peralta himself revealed the name of the man who had given him the drawing and confessed that Dr. Arturo Benavidez, private secretary to ex-President Irigoyen and Ing. Manuel Claps, former Administrator of the State Railways had proposed the purchase of fifty bombs made according to the sketch, and a further quantity of a smaller type. It was intended to place the order for the bombs in the United States, to have them landed at Montevideo, and to utilize them eventually for the purpose of an attack on Buenos Aires. The order for the bombs was never placed because Benavidez and Claps wished to pay for them on delivery, an arrangement that was opposed by Peralta for fear of being defrauded."

"On the strength of the foregoing, Peralta, Almenara and Izeta were sent to the National penal settlement at Ushuaia by the Provisional Government. Twenty days prior to the commencement of the movement in Corrientes, the first named managed to escape from the town of Ushuaia, his whereabouts being still unknown."

"Returning to the narrative: In accordance with the known details of the Peralta plan, and numerous, varied, and intensive inquiries made under the direction of the Sub-Prefect-General and Comisario Inspector Lugones, it has been possible to reach the following conclusions: Peralta, acting apparently as chief instigator and executive was, in turn, receiving his instructions from conspicuous figures in what may be termed Irigoyenism. The conspirators realized the necessity for attacking the problem in a manner diametrically opposed to earlier plans. That is to say, they found that it would be essential to start their action in the populous districts of the interior, first in order to make the surprise greater, and, secondly, more evenly to balance the odds."

"The conspirators next decided that Buenos Aires with its vast population and its great military establishments would be an extraordinarily difficult city to convince. They therefore set themselves to the task of starting subversive organizations in every town in the country however small they might be, each little body headed by the local Irigoyenist 'caudillo.'"

"These latter were entrusted with the mission of carrying out acts of vandalism, and, in turn, instructed their followers in the parts assigned to them. Some were detailed to cut railway communications, others to destroy power stations or put them out of action. There were parties of men told off to make important highways impassable, rob business premises, set fire to automobiles, destroy houses that might serve as means of transport for troops, burn the homes of men not affiliated with the Personalist sector of the Radical Party, loot armourers' shops, interfere with water supplies -

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(c) Radicalism.

in a word, it was intended to strike terror into the heart of every human-being resident in the country."

"The movement in Corrientes was intended to be the starting-off point of the campaign of frightfulness, which was to have been spread immediately into Misiones, to the north, and Entre Rios and Santa Fe to the south. The conspirators believed that practically simultaneously with the outbreak in Corrientes, there would be another to the south of Mendoza, possibly in San Rafael, extending throughout the rest of the province and down across the Pampa, Jujuy and Salta Oriental were to have led the terror in the north. It appears to have been the intention of the revolutionaries to isolate completely the last-mentioned province, a belief founded in the special preparations being made in that particular region of the country."

"Secret verbal instructions had been imparted to every Radical throughout the Republic to impede transport by every possible means. The district heads of the risings were to have been army officers, most of those lending themselves to the plot being men on the retired list, and of definitely Irigoyenistic views."

"Buenos Aires, the capital city, could not be left out of the plan. But as the conspirators considered it would be impossible to obtain the support of the troops stationed there, they sought an understanding with the Anarchists. This was arranged in Montevideo in February last, when the extremist Enrique Garcia Thomas, representative of the Alianza Libertaria Argentina, Dr. Arturo Orzabal Quintana, and the former editor of the newspaper "LA Union", Amable Gutierrez Diez, met there in conference. This rapprochement between Personalists and Anarchists was confirmed in the meeting of the Llavalleja 'Congress' that took place six days before the commencement of the Corrientes rising. The meeting in question was the subject of a communique published in the local press a fortnight ago."

"Barely a fortnight has passed since the Buenos Aires police concluded another series of investigations related to these activities. The investigations referred to commenced with the arrest of Atilano Baccicoa and Victor Ramon Arias Campos, a Uruguayan, the latter appearing to be the tool of the former, and his agent in special missions to other towns, including Montevideo. It is definitely known that Baccicoa, an audacious, dangerous and determined Anarchist entered into association with such individuals as the former Chief of the Port of the Capital, Jose Patricio Roibon and the bogus Captain Adelio Ortiz, who, acting on instructions from higher up, discussed with him schemes for provoking movements in which workers and students would participate."

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(c) Radicalism.

"The relations developed between Radicals and anarchists cannot be doubted. The affairs of Pacifico were further revealed to the police by one of his minor accomplices, Ramon Pereyra, who was arrested while in possession of 500 packets of gelignite, bombs, etc."

"The Irigoyenists promised the anarchists, as the reward for their assistance, full liberty to sack and loot the city of Buenos Aires, but they were not given an exclusive concession. Radical caudillos in the rougher districts of the city had also been promised their share of the proceeds in view of which they had taken time by the forelock, organizing their own pillaging gangs in readiness for the day. The murder of all the men connected with the present Administration was included in the schedule of happenings to take place here."

"Judged from the military standpoint, the Corrientes rising was an isolated episode: from the political angle it constituted something with vast ramifications, an assertion proved by the fact that the commencement of the movement was followed immediately by the cutting of all railway and other communications. Most of these acts of vandalism were committed by civilians working under the orders of caudillos, who, when they learned of the flight of Lt. Col. Fomar, rushed to their homes, there to make great pretence of being peace-loving citizens. But the Provisional Government was aware of their part in the proceedings, and adopted measures to meet the case."

"Possessed of all the foregoing facts, the Political Division of the Prefecture-General of Police received orders from the proper quarter to proceed to detain a number of persons, who were all arrested with the least possible delay and housed, with some exceptions, in the National Penitentiary. The exceptions were permitted to remain in their homes under close guard."

"At the present moment Comisario-Inspector Lugones, under instructions from the sub-Prefect-General, Dr. David Uriburu, is conducting further raids which, it is hoped will produce evidence indicating the exact degree of responsibility of each of the political leaders referred to above."

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4407

August 1, 1931.

Clerk:

2657 L-75 1931

79

3410

C-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

The subversive activities in which the Radical Personalists were engaged under the guise of peacefully reorganizing their party, and which finally led to the Corrientes Revolution (See our Reports Nos. 4406 and 4407) are the factors which have prompted the Provisional Government to ban from the coming elections all "Irigoyenistas." The decree which was issued on July 25th states that the electoral authorities of the Nation and provinces shall decline to affix their seal of approval to lists of candidates including names of persons who were actively connected with the deposed Administration, who were its political representatives or who have been in any way concerned with the recent activities mentioned above.

Closely following this decree, and based on the results of the investigations carried out by the Police (Refer to our Report No. 4407), a still further "Political cleanup" was made when the Provisional Government invited certain prominent political leaders of the Radical Personalist Party to leave the country. These included Dr. Marcelo T. Alvear, Dr. Honorio Pueyrredon, Dr. Mario Guido, Dr. Tamborini, and Messrs. Carlos Noel and Ratto.

Before leaving the country, Dr. Alvear delivered to his friends a sealed envelope with instructions that it should not be opened until after his departure. When the contents were revealed, the Provisional Government were supplied with copies of the communication and thereupon authorized the Press to give publicity to Dr. Alvear's manifesto. At the same time an indictment was drawn up by President Uriburu and likewise published. We quote below a free translation of the manifesto and the reply of the Head of the Provisional Government:

"THE MANIFESTO"

"An order of the Provisional Government has obliged me to abandon Argentine soil. I will not deign to discuss the principles of the case because such arbitrary action is not worthy of my doing so."

"I leave my country's shores with feelings of profound regret for the dark clouds that at present overshadow them and a feeling of sincere commiseration for those who are at present exercising their authority 'de facto.'"

"With my spirit undisturbed by passion or moved by ambition, I cannot conceive how it is that those who realize the transitory nature of governments, especially when of a provisional nature, do not feel the enormous responsibility that is placed upon them in the annals of history, or feel the pressing claims of a people which in the face of the present world crisis yearns for a return to a normal

From M.A. Argentina Report No. 4410 August 13, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

state, or listen to the voices of the past - a past that was our pride - for it gave us the premier place among the democracies of America."

"Honored with the Presidency by the unanimous vote of the people, my conscience tells me that I faithfully filled that office in accordance with my highest ideals and with a complete absence of any personal ambition."

"Not one of my fellow citizens who prides himself on being an honest man can deny that I respected the law and the country's institutions, or say that I subordinated the high ideals of my country's welfare to party politics. I was at that time, and I am now a strict follower of the law."

"When the Revolution of September interfered with the working of the electoral law, decreed in 1912, at a moment when its fulfillment appeared to be definite, I accepted the situation, hoping that after the upheaval, we would return to the right path and once more walk in the ways of true democracy."

"I have no hesitation in saying, not only on account of what I feel myself, but from the bitterness that is discernible in the hearts of the people, that a long series of deceptions has led us to the conviction, one that we have tried to resist, that, in spite of the height of civilization we have attained, we have arrived at a state of despotism, developing into a dictatorship, such, as history tells us, has never met with success. They are pretending to guarantee us that state of democracy which we have inherited from our forefathers, with a lot of idle political jargon. Just contrast the intrepidity with which they have deprived a defenceless people of its liberty and the care which they have devoted to securing the adhesion of the army, completely ruining the morale of former military institutions. I feel that I am in no way exaggerating when I say that we have ceased to be a free people because we have entirely lost all those elementary rights without which no nation can hope to exist in these days."

"The oath to respect the Constitution and the law have been violated in an attempt to submit them to reforms that would be puerile were they not essentially anti-democratic." The Constitution, which is the work of our best statesmen, and represents the ideals of a young country that wishes to found its morale on noble lines, no longer exists in the Argentine Republic, neither in the letter nor in the spirit of which we were wont to boast. The law promulgated by President Saenz Pena, the most valued of our perfected code, has been the object of repeated attacks."

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

"The political parties, without exception, are the object of insults and injuries on the part of the military who hold the reins of office in profuse manifestations of comradeships which affect for the first time in our history the tranquility of the military establishments, affecting the high respect of our civil tradition and weighing upon the clean consciences of our chiefs and officers."

"A new type of morality is being forced upon the Republic and all the parties are expected to bow contritely before it. If they do not do so their civil death is decreed and they are deprived of every electoral right."

"The latest invention is a monstrosity that has no precedent in any other nation in the world; in view of the fact that, after exhausting all means of intrigue for dissolving and bringing down to anarchy all the political forces and still not succeeding in avoiding isolation in the face of hypothetical election they resorted to a very simple process: the deportation of all the heads and authorities of the opposing party against the anticipation that their mandates would be vetoed."

"The ethics of the party which terms itself revolutionary investigates with great show the minor misdemeanours of the administration, but considers legitimate the misdemeanour made in the face of all the world and the will of people as expressed in the urns of the first Argentine State. In order to avoid protests, they have filled the prisons with political prisoners and students. For the first time in the history of Argentina one hears talk of mediaeval tortures, applied with sinister cunning."

"The judges who have given legal standing to the 'de facto' Government on the basis of its members swearing to respect the Constitution, a ceremony which took place in our historical plaza and in full view of the public gathered there, were relieved of their posts when they went against the will of the Government by merely bringing into force again the rights to individual liberty which the Supreme Court had declared subsistent."

"The sorry tale is, however, a simple statement of facts. The citizens to whom I address myself will decide in their own consciences whether the story is true or not. It comes hard to say so, but the Argentine Republic, the magnificent nation which has attracted the attention of the world has ceased to be a political civilization."

"Forced to leave the post which I returned to assume in our civic life in response to the calls made to me, I deplore having thus to do so, but I cannot leave without telling my fellow-countrymen, with all frankness, the sad reality of the moment. It does not alter my optimism regard-

From U.A. Argentina

Report No.4410

August 13, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

ing the future destinies of our country. I do not believe that this gross dictatorship can last because I have unbounded faith in our culture, in our continuous striving towards progress, in the virility of our public and private customs. It is to be hoped that our Army and Naval Forces will not still further lower the noble dignity which characterises them."

"The Army is the Nation itself. Our mothers give to it the flower of their sons. This army has carried liberty throughout America, raising its nations to independence with heroic deeds. It is not to be believed that it should be used in abuse against the people of its own nation."

"I have the right to raise my strongest protests against those that believe it possible to bring the Army down from its moral level and subordinate it to blind service, because of the faith which I have always had in the Army. I demonstrated that fact during my period of Government by my jealous preoccupation in fomenting its progress and overcoming all financial obstacles in maintaining it on its merited level of dignity."

"Compatriots: I am always ready to answer the call of my country in any way that I can serve it. The time may come when it will be necessary for me to occupy my post in the civil ranks, and when that time comes, I shall enroll again under the standard which I have followed since my earliest days."

"I was working at the unceasing and patriotic task of organization whereby the nation would be able, through strictly fair and clean elections, to continue its destinies, when I was interrupted and ordered to leave the country. I feel neither likes nor dislikes in my heart, but what I do feel is sadness regarding the welfare of my country. Any personal bitterness is compensated for by a conscientious satisfaction at having been, in the face of all the difficulties of the moment and in all my actions, the same as I have always been. Now, as before, your ex-President, has not bowed his head before any man."

(Signed) Marcelo T. de Alvear.

GENERAL URIBURU'S REPLY

"To the People of Argentina -

"I am setting aside for a moment my accidental and temporary investiture as President of the Provisional Government in order to reply frankly to calumnious attack, because I believe that as head of the Army and the Revolution I cannot allow to pass in silence the outbursts with which it is intended to lower the prestige of both contained in a document drawn

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4410

August 13, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

up and signed by one who formerly exercised the Presidency of the Republic."

"Dr. Marcelo T. de Alvear has written a manifesto directed against my Government and the Revolution. It was written in a foreign land, for he has passed the greater part of his life in foreign lands, coming back to Argentina solely for the purpose of receiving the public offices Sr. Irigoyen was pleased to confer upon him. When he had filled those offices for the appointed length of time he went abroad again to pass the time away in pleasant journeyings. Some months ago, on learning the result of the elections in the Province of Buenos Aires, he conceived the possibility of being able to replace Sr. Irigoyen as the head of the Personalist Party, and turned up once more in Buenos Aires, like a Messiah of the deposed regime. Now he has gone again, this time not of his own free will, but ordered out of the country by the Provisional Government which regards him as an undesirable citizen in these grave moments when the primordial duty of the Governors of the country is to maintain public order, and to cleanse the Republic of those men who devote themselves to bringing about confusion, or whose personal ambitions convert them into perturbing factors in the life of the nation."

"When Dr. Alvear arrived in Buenos Aires, I believed he had come back highly inspired with the patriotic fervour which animates all good citizens and particularly those of us who, by immense personal sacrifice, are fighting against overwhelming odds for the reorganization of the country. I thought that the hard lesson taught by the Revolution of September last would lead him to cooperate disinterestedly in the restoring of the Republic to a state of normality. It was in this belief that I sent the head of my military household to greet him, in my name, on his arrival in the port. The following day I invited him to call at Government House and to lend aid in the cleaning up of the nation's affairs. But I also warned him, as head of the Revolution, that I would tolerate no nonsense, and that I was determined to prevent the return to power of the men deposed on September 6, in whatever guise they might present themselves."

"Instead of contributing towards this political 'spring cleaning', Dr. Alvear insisted in reconstructing and consolidating the pernicious factors who had sustained the deposed regime, and who were accomplices and helped to cover the activities of the former Administration."

"That was the situation when the subversive movement commenced in the Province of Corrientes a fortnight ago. It was an attempt intended to start a national conflagration, and it was provoked by the Irigoyenistic conglomeration for which Dr. Alvear was serving as standard bearer. The civil

From H. A. Argentina

Report No. 4410

August 13, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

head of the Irigoyenist 'reorganization' maintained a shameful silence while the movement was still alive and refused to disclaim connection or to disavow it when it had been suffocated. He had waited quietly in his rooms for news of the revolutionary triumph in order to benefit by it if it proved a success, or to remain silent as the guinea if it failed. He showed himself to be a man lacking in valour, devoid of frankness. And he was the man who, with the moral responsibility upon his shoulders, permitted the Corrientes crime, which commenced with the cowardly murder of a gallant officer and ended in attempted robbery and the ignominious flight of the material authors, to take place."

"For all the foregoing reasons I have deported Dr. Alvear, because it became necessary that the Revolution of September 6 should unmask those who, under cover of honoured and respected names, and seeking shelter in the shadows of the statues of their forefathers, hoodwinked the country into believing that they were reorganizing a party in preparation for an electoral campaign."

"The manifesto drawn up by Dr. Alvear has, in rather more clearly expressed phrases than usual, all the characteristics of Irigoyenist documents: falsehood, cynicism, and libel. I will demonstrate my meaning by analysing the terms in which the author endeavours to offend me and to blast the revolution of September 6 and what has followed. He affirms that he was 'honoured with the Presidency of the Republic' in a farcical election, that he showed 'elevated morale', that I would not permit myself to be directed by others, and that these latter points were incompatible with his personal decorum. He declares before his fellow citizens that he had 'never bowed his head before any man.' All these affirmations on the part of Dr. Alvear, like those of the Irigoyenist conglomeration he sought to replace, are entirely false."

"Where the matter of elections is concerned, it is public and notorious that Dr. Alvear was not elected President by the people, whom he had never served, and with whom he had several all connection during a long period of years. He was appointed to office by Sr. Irigoyen, he was a simple depositary of the Executive Power, and was under an obligation to return the treasure that had been placed in his hands at the end of six years. It is sufficient to recall in this connection that the beneficiary who with such condescension received his appointment while living in Paris never even took the trouble to cross the ocean to show his face in this part of the world during the electoral campaign so that the people who voted so readily for him might, at least, become familiar with his features. He did not open his mouth to utter a single phrase, to give voice to any ideas, to indicate whether or not he had formed any programme of government. His muteness was broken only when, in a regal tour of Europe

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4410

August 13, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

before his return to Buenos Aires, he bowed before kings and princess as a President-elect."

"Dr. Alvear's declaration to the effect that he has never bowed his head before any man is another false asseveration, like all the others in his manifesto, as I will now proceed to prove. In December, 1920, Dr. Alvear, while waiting in anticipation of his appointment to the Presidency, accompanied the delegation, headed by Dr. Honorio Pueyrredon when it attended the League of Nations conference at Geneva. In this emergency his 'high morale' was put to the test, together with the rigidity of his principles and the solidity of his convictions. He had compromised himself to ideals diametrically opposed to the foreign policy of Argentina; he was at variance with the views of the head of the Argentine mission, to the point where, when Dr. Pueyrredon explained Argentina's policy to the League, Dr. Alvear fled in silence and failed to put in an appearance at the conference when this country's ideals were explained. He thus deserted his post, failed in his duty at a decisive moment, and had not even the 'elevated morale' to resign the diplomatic appointment he held in Paris, thus subjecting his private views to the convenience of 'standing in well' with Sr. Irigoyen."

After giving a wealth of evidence to prove that Dr. Alvear was regularly inconsistent in the performance of his duties as an ambassador, and as an upholder of Sr. Irigoyen, and giving him the lie direct on an endless number of points, General Uriburu proceeded to go into the history of Argentina under the Alvear Administration, showing the main characteristics of the deported ex-President to have been indolence and readiness to yield to pressure from whatever direction it came.

"I am not so much interested in the injurious phrases Dr. Alvear has written about me personally as in those he has directed against the Army. It is a base lie to state that the Army served Sr. Irigoyen personally and then turned itself over to me. The Army is above all politics. It seeks only to serve the highest interests of the nation."

"I am the head of a Revolution which was organized and carried out as a last resource to save the country from the legal farce through which it was living - the farce which laughed at the law and the Constitution, the farce in which the laughter of Dr. Alvear was heard constantly. My Government is not legal, it is revolutionary, but it endeavours to adjust itself to the laws of the Republic and to bring a quick return to normality, which will be an accomplished fact after the elections to be held on November 8."

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4410

August 13, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

"The comments of the manifesto upon my 'tyrannical' conduct, and with regard to deportations, restrictions and imprisonments, are as ridiculous as they are false. The only persons against whom the state of siege has been applied are agitators and persons considered undesirable for other, but equally good reasons."

"I have perhaps spent too much time in demonstrating the impostures, the contradictions and the absurdities of the manifesto. I consider it my duty to let the people of Argentina read this document, published abroad and distributed in a clandestine manner here, so that they may acquaint themselves with the real facts and refuse to submit in future to being hoodwinked as Dr. Alvear endeavoured to hoodwink them."

(Signed) Jose F. Uriburu.

The salient points in both the manifesto and General Uriburu's reply have been given above. There is no doubt that Alvear's failure to effect a reconciliation in the Radical Party and his subsequent attitude came as a veritable disappointment to a great many who had, in the words of the President, looked to him as the "Radical Messiah."

The next step taken by the Provisional Government in its efforts towards "Cleaner Politics" is embodied in a decree published on August 5th stipulating the conditions under which political parties may enter the forthcoming electoral campaign.

Summarised briefly, the decree states that the parties wishing to submit candidates to the electorate on November 8th must give sixty days notice of such intention to the courts of the district in which their headquarters are established, at the same time soliciting what is known as "personeria juridica", or judicial recognition.

Applications for recognition must be accompanied by the following documents: a) Copy of the act of constitution or reorganization of the party; b) Copy of the articles and regulations of the party, which must have received the approval of a general meeting to which none but those entitled to exercise the franchise have been admitted; c) Copy of the act designating the executive officers of the party; d) Copy of the act of constitution and designation of sub or district committees of the party; e) Copy of the act designating a general representative of the party to deal with the public authority; f) a clear manifestation of the quotas

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4410

August 13, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

contributions, donations, or other revenue to be provided by the members or sympathisers with the party for the purpose of forming the party fund: g) Copy of the electoral platform to be submitted to the electorate during the campaign: h) Copy of the scrutineers' report relating to the election and proclamation of candidates.

Once the genuinely democratic character of the party, the legality of its intentions and the honesty of the means employed for the building up of the party fund have been clearly demonstrated, the district judge shall issue the certificate of judicial recognition requested.

The decree expressly forbids the selection and election of candidates by parties until their electoral platforms have been adopted. Once the candidates have been chosen they must give written notification within three days to the courts of full approval and acceptance of the platform.

Another important clause is that imposing upon all parties the obligation to keep proper records of income, expenditure and correspondence in rubricated books as laid down by the Commercial Code, together with a rubricated register containing the names, addresses and other details relating to membership of the party. In the event of any controversy arising, the electoral authority appointed by the Government will be entitled to demand presentation of all these records for full inspection.

The "war chest" of each party may be formed by the quotas of members, donations from candidates, and other licit means. Money obtained from public bodies and donations from private persons which place the party under special obligations will be considered illicit.

Election of local officials and delegates to national or provincial conventions or assemblies shall be by direct vote of members.

It is also established that votes cast in the national elections in favor of candidates who have not previously been proved to have had no association with the deposed regime shall not be taken into account.

Proof of the failure of any party to comply with the new regulations will involve withdrawal of "personeria juridica", and, in consequence, its right to obtain possession of public office of any description.

In view of the recent turn of events, it seems to be the general opinion that the political situation is now actually showing signs of healthy improvement. The anti-

From M.A.Argentina

Report No.4410

August 13, 1931

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

personalist sector of the Radical Party has repudiated and condemned the Corrientes outrage in terms which might well be regarded as signifying a virtually definite break with the Personalist sector, and the announcement of the impossibility of a reconciliation of the two factions. Furthermore, the anti-Person lists have finally issued the manifesto launching the candidatures of General Justo and Doctor Laurencena as President and Vice President respectively. It seems that the different parties are at last getting down to business and that in the very near future they will definitely announce their choice of candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency.

From M.A. Argentina Report No.4410

August 13, 1931.

-10-

Victoria L. Julia
Clerk.

G-2 Report

2657-L-75-

5410 DEPARTMENT

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions

(b) Current Situation.

Is a record and resume of the work of the Provisional Government during the first year of its administration, we are quoting below a translation of excerpts from the speech of the President delivered on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Revolution. Only the salient points are given.

"I have followed unwaveringly the line of conduct to which I pledged myself on September 6, that is:

- (1) To clean up and reorganize the national administration and finances;
- (2) Restore order throughout the country and in the universities;
- (3) Prepare the institutional reorganization of the Republic by proposing Constitutional reforms calculated to defend us in future from personalism, centralism, oligarchies, and demagogic rule;
- (4) Stimulate the formation of great civic forces which should provide the solutions required to bring about a return to normality without, however, taking any part in, or granting favors to, any given group."

"Where finance is concerned, the first problem confronted by the Provisional Government was consideration of emergency measures rendered necessary in order to avert the crash provoked by the deposed regime. It is sufficient to mention a few of the most significant facts: In 1929 the national expenditure exceeded the nation's revenue and the product of bond issues, not by \$29,000,000, as was stated in the Ministry of Finance report of that year, but by \$199,000,000! In 1930 the deficit was \$352,000,000 (approximately, as the slack methods of the Accountancy Division under the deposed regime have made it impossible to give exact figures). In this manner the floating debt was increased from \$552,000,000 carried forward from previous years to a total of nearly \$1,105,000,000, which together with the short-term obligations of the State Railways, amounting to \$102,000,000 constituted a short-term debt of \$1,207,000,000."

"When we assumed office we never dreamed of encountering such a disastrous state of affairs. We learned the truth by degrees. We found the National Treasury exhausted, with barely \$320,000 in cash and a debit of \$150,000,000 in the books of the 'Bank of the Nation.'"

"Unpaid wages and salaries reached enormous figures. Mountains of bills waiting to be paid lay in untidy heaps without being revised or placed in order. It was necessary to proceed without delay. The banks responded patriotically to the call of the Government and placed at its immediate disposition

From U.A. Argentina

Report No.4421

September 9, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Social Political Conditions

(b) Current Situations.

the funds required to pay the wares bill and the most pressing outside claims, among the latter the bill that had been issued against completion of the new cruisers now on their way out from Italy. The deposed Administration had allowed these bills to reach maturity in 1930 without making the slightest move towards honoring them, or to obtain renewal. The ships lay in foreign harbors bringing discredit upon the flag they carried, and upon the country."

The President then went on to speak of the energetic plan of economy followed by the Provisional Government, outlined below in tabular form, (autonomous departments excluded).

NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE. (000 omitted)				
	1930	1931	± or - 1931	%
General Admin.	609,700	497,300	-112,400	-18.43
Debt Services.	219,300	238,600	+ 19,400	+ 8.83
Subsidies	40,100	30,500	- 9,600	-24.02
Public Works..	174,200	100,000	- 74,200	-42.58
Armaments.....	30,700	6,800	- 23,900	-77.84
Total	1,074,000	873,300	-200,700	-18.69

Note:

The figure 497,300,000 expended under General Administration for 1931 includes the cost of the elections to be held in November, which will be about 4,000,000.

The figure for 1931 under debt services is of necessity higher than for 1930, as the extraordinary increase in debts for the past few years now demands an approximate annual sum of 239,000,000 to meet interest and amortization.

With regard to the introduction of income tax, a question which is rapidly coming to the fore, the President said the following:

"We must change our revenue system. It is antiquated and unjust; it does not fit in with the taxable capacity of the contributor, nor does it adjust itself to our political economy. We have increased Custom House valuations thanks to which the income from that source has diminished to a less extent than the country's importations. These latter have suffered a decrease which will prove healthy, since it tends to level our balance of payments which, in turn, is another essential to sound currency; but this cannot continue without seriously affecting general financial resources. We must therefore proceed with all energy; this is a thing that cannot wait. The measures that are being taken in this direction must be regarded as of emergency. When Congress meets it will be its task to bring into force a new system of direct taxation and to create an income tax. This tax is difficult to apply;

From N.A. Argentina

Report No. 4421

September 9, 1931.

MINISTRY (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

but once the direct contribution system has been implanted, steps should be taken to remove gradually those taxes which fall upon the shoulders of the consumer, upon whom we are at present imposing a heavy burden because there are reasons of urgency which compel us to do so."

The President also spoke of the "Special Investigation Office."

"The grave irregularities committed by the deposed regime are public and notorious."

"With a view to facilitating the inquiries, and the preparation of indictments against the guilty, the Provisional Government ordered the establishment of a special legal branch which was given the mission of looking into all the aspects, legal and otherwise, of the charges preferred by the investigating committee and passing them on to the proper quarter."

"Since its constitution, the department has submitted seventeen full reports dealing with irregularities and crimes which were committed by persons associated with the deposed regime. The two first reports referred to the ex-President of the Republic and his eight Ministers. The others dealt with matters pertaining to the Post Office, National Council of Education, Comision Nacional de Sacos Baratos, the National Lottery, the Custom House, the National Mortgage Bank, and the newspapers 'La Epoca' and 'La Gaceta.'"

"In all cases where guilt appeared to be proved the corresponding legal action was commenced in the Courts."

After reviewing briefly the activities of various national departments, the President spoke of the work of the Ministry of War as follows:

"All the illegal and arbitrary measures adopted in this department by the former Government have now been corrected and set right."

"For the first time on record, officers recommended for and about to be promoted, are now being subjected to medical examination, to determine whether their physical condition will permit them to withstand the strain of their new duties."

"The Engineers' Department has continued the construction of barracks and other premises in many parts of the country, making use of credits sanctioned by Congress some years ago."

"After two years during which no progress was made, the Aviation Department has made rapid strides in the past twelve months. Since the month of October last, the Military Aircraft Factory in Cordoba has built thirty machines of the

From Montevideo

Report No. 4421

September 9, 1931.

ARGENTINA (10091001)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(a) Current Conditions.

Two-Doorport type, thirty of the Detroit type, and thirty
"Torraine-Dietrich motors."

The comments with regard to the Ministry of Marine are as follows:

"As a result of the strict adherence to the decree dated January 23, 1931, a considerable economy has been effected in the first few months of the budget sanctioned for the year. Some 1646,400 has been economized in salaries, and 1404,451 in expenses, making a total of 3,050,851 in seven months. Further economies have been effected in the staff departments and have resulted a total of approximately \$448,000."

"During the year there has been considerable agitation amongst the laborers in the extensive zone under the control of the Maritime Prefecture. The desire to work as federated or non-federated men has been respected without exception and professional agitators rigorously dealt with. Among the dispositions made to assist in avoiding unemployment is that of maintaining a proportion of at least 50% Argentine workmen in all port operations."

"During the year 127 smugglers were arrested."

"With regard to the total port movement for the nine months of the past year, the figures are: 116,104 boats of 67,956,422.22 tons register, which shows an increase over the same period of the previous year of 4,420,078.65."

"Under the heading of 'material,' economies in the budget have limited the execution of various projects in connection with the arsenal. Repairs and renovations to the coast-guard vessels Teyrredon and San Martin have been continued; the modernization of the Tujuy has been finished and it is expected that the La Plata will be concluded shortly."

"As a consequence of the economy plans, the balance of the 1930 budget has been carried forward to the general revenue account, and in spite of this disadvantage which, in terms of cash means \$422,130, it is expected to close the year without a deficit. This apart from the added expense of incorporating the new cruisers."

"Debts amounting to £663,997.1 for quotas owing on the payment for new cruisers, submarines, torpedoes, etc. have been paid. Finally, a special committee has been appointed to study the question of handing over the Naval Dockyards and workshops in the North to the Department of Public Works. If this is done it will permit the Navy to improve its establishments at Rio Santiago and Puerto Poligrano."

Summarizing the work of the Ministry of Agriculture, the President says:

From M.A. Argentina Report No. 4421 September 9, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(A) Recent Conditions.

"The General circumstances under which this Ministry has had to work have not prevented its beneficent effects being felt in every corner of the Republic. Agricultural products which form the life of Argentina's cities, have been abundantly supplied and enabled by the granting of credits to the farmers, in which work the Bank of the Nation has lent its high assistance."

"The interests of white producers have been defended insofar as has been possible by the negotiations for facilitating importation into other countries, reduction in railway freights and propaganda for its wider consumption. New uses have been experimented with in particular that of manufacturing combustible spirit."

"The installation of grain elevators has been encouraged and the Ministry continues to work actively for the provision of a chain of this necessary equipment. Cooperative associations have also been encouraged and assisted, thus enabling the farmers to become self-supporting."

"Measures regulating the importation of fresh fruits have been taken by fixing the periods at which this can be done without affecting the local production. Protective measures have been taken against the destruction of the vineyards at San Juan and Mendoza by disease. A committee has been appointed to project the formation of a standard type of grain. A delegate from the Ministry has commenced to attend at the 'Bolsa de Cereales' and 'Mercado a Termino' in order to control price fixing and to intervene in solving any difficulties which may arise in transactions. Measures have been taken for the protection of the 'yerba' industry in Formosa, the Chaco and Misiones."

"The sugar industry has also received the support of the Ministry which created the National Sugar Committee for the regulation of prices."

"The rigorous veterinary inspection exercised over cattle, whether in the country or imported, still continues and all precautions have been taken where necessary. Throughout this work it has always been borne in mind that it is due to this sanitary control that Argentina holds the position she does in the world markets today. The purchases effected by the frigorificos amounted to 2,253,764 head of cattle, 5,225,938 sheep, and 351,719 pigs. In terms of cash these transactions amounted to \$350,071,830."

"In regard to the milk and kindred industries, new markets abroad are being searched for, especially butter in the interests of which a system of analysis has been introduced in order to assure quality."

"Other activities of this Ministry include intervention in disputes between owners and tenants of land, a reduction

From N.A. Argentina

Report No. 4421 September 9, 1931.

CONFIDENTIAL (Article 1)

Subject: Social Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situation.

of 50 per cent having been secured in 1931; and in cases where there has been in danger of being evicted owing to inability to meet their obligation. At the moment, this has been avoided in many cases by having the parties concerned to an order pending.

"It is in the Ministry also that the decree of first dumping was issued, with the sole purpose of protecting local industry and safeguarding it against the serious menace of dumped merchandise."

"The activities of the Mineral Department have been very much restricted owing to limited capital, the lack of which has almost completely paralyzed this industry. The greatest activity in this connection has been in the oil fields, whether exploited by the Yacimientos Petroliferos Viales or by private interests."

"The exploitation of oil, which was made difficult for private interests by the previous government by the possibility of the sanctioning of the Petroleum Law, has been the object of a great deal of study. As a result, a few days ago, a project for the most rational exploitation of the wells was drawn up. The Direccion General de Yacimientos Petroliferos Viales has been given authority to make explorations and exploitations in any part of the country."

"The Yacimientos Petroliferos Viales has produced in its various fields a total of 397,165 cubic metres from the 1,155 wells under exploitation. Sales have been as follows: 190,004,938 litres of naphtha; 17,441,082 litres of kerosene, and 1,261,133 litres of aviation spirit. The Department has 748 agencies throughout the country, and 3,663 roadside pumps."

"Further efforts to reduce the cost of production of grain have been made by tests in reaping machines, and the Ministry's representative in the United States has been instructed to make enquiries regarding the prices of such machines in that country. Efforts have been made to keep the whole country informed of the results of the Ministry's scientific and technical investigations, not only by means of lectures, bulletins, etc., but by wireless so that the news is carried to the farthest corners of the Republic."

"Colonization has also occupied the attention of the Ministry. The grave economic crisis through which the country is passing has decreased the demand in the labor market and has compelled the Government to take steps to reduce immigration and to limit it to agricultural families. These families have been distributed and taken care of by the Immigration authorities in conjunction with the Departamento Nacional de Trabajo, the Direccion General de Tierras

From N.A. Argentina Report No. 4421 September 9, 1931.

REPORT (1931-1932)

Subject: Social Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

and other bodies."

"The 1930 budget for the Ministry was \$28,199,676, but the real total of money expended amounted to \$28,036,436. The budget drawn up by the Provisional Government for the present year is \$31,401,600, which was included absolutely every expense, thus, in this department alone an economy of \$3,609,856.47 had been made."

Regarding the Ministry of Public Works, the chief points in the speech are as follows:

"The necessity of not exceeding in expenditure the sum at our disposal has made it necessary that no new architectural works be commenced. As a consequence of this the staff has had to be reorganized in accordance with immediate necessities and all persons of doubtful character or who are incompetent have been weeded out. This has resulted in an economy of \$3,205,340.68 if the last six months of 1930 are compared with the first six months of 1931."

"The building of roads has been one of the problems to which the most serious study has been given by the Provisional Government, and for that reason several new roads have been commenced. As the general revenue of the country has been seriously affected by the world crisis, it was found necessary to look for other sources of revenue for the construction of highways. As a result of this, two decrees were issued: that of December 19, 1930, calling for public tenders for the building of the roads from Buenos Aires to Rosario and from Cordoba to Bahia Blanca, payment for which is to be made by tolls; and that of February 4, 1931, authorizing a tax of two centavos on petrol, the proceeds of which will be devoted exclusively to road building. It is expected that the tax mentioned will produce a revenue of \$15,000,000 by the end of the year."

"From September 6 last to date, in spite of having reduced the staff from 1,036 to 742 persons, 417 roads have been built and 47 bridges, the total sum involved being \$17,000,000."

"Apart from the freight reduction obtained on grain, reference to which I have made when dealing with the Ministry of Agriculture, similar reductions have also been obtained for the transport of timber, fuel, wool, potatoes, etc."

"The State Railways were one of the biggest scandals in the past administration. It was found that this department had contracted obligations to a total amount of \$117,521,506.39, of which \$48,143,884.98 has been cancelled without indemnification or other charges."

"The former administration, during the last twelve months had \$7,883,322.52 revenue and \$60,151,377.13 which was obtained from funds provided by the Government, which made a

From N.A. Argentina Report No. 4421 September 9, 1931.

CONFIDENTIAL (Ref: 1410 1)

Subject: Social Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

total of \$110,000,000.07. This added to the general debt of \$10,157,001.55, brought the expenses for one year up to the first annual total of \$120,157,001.55 n/n."

The maintenance of Public Order, one of the big problems which confronted the Provisional Government is described by the President as follows:

"When Congress was dissolved, the Provisional Government sent twelve Federal Commissioners to the provinces of Buenos Aires, Catamarca, Corrientes, Jujuy, La Rioja, Mendoza, Salta, San Juan, Santa Fe, Santiago del Estero, and Tucuman in order to re-organize them on the lines adopted by the Provisional Government with respect to the national institutions."

"The Commissioners have worked hard to place these provinces in material and electoral conditions which will permit a return to normality. The Provinces of Entre Rios and San Luis maintain their autonomy and are collaborating patriotically in the task of setting the nation's house in order."

"Continued maintenance of the state of siege, which was imposed by circumstances, has been fully justified by diverse attempts on the part of persons connected with the deposed regime to disturb the peace. Happily their efforts have not met with the support or approbation of the public."

"This exceptional measure, in spite of the revolutionary state of the country, does not affect the inhabitants of the Republic in the following of their everyday occupations. The political parties enjoy the right to meet and deliberate, citizens may travel from one end of the Republic to the other without being molested by the authorities, and the liberty of the Press has not suffered lesion."

"The provision of all accessories required in connection with the free elections that will take place in the Republic is a matter that has never been out of the thoughts of the Government. Within a few days of entry into office, it issued orders for the preparation and printing of new electoral registers."

"University education in Argentina has been profoundly disturbed in recent years by the influence of political and social systems opposed to those which govern the rest of our civilization and institutions."

"Places of study cease to be establishments given over to instruction in the sciences when philosophical doctrines such as Russian Communism, intervene to distract attention from the real purpose of the institution, and create violent passions which are placed at the service of electoral interests directed against the best interests of culture and the social order of the Republic."

From H.A. Argentina Report No.4421 September 9, 1951

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

"It is clear that the organic laws by which the universities are governed have been twisted around in such a manner as to give them a character differing totally from that of similar institutions in other parts of the world."

"It is therefore the duty of the Provisional Government to see that the laws governing the universities are again given their true interpretation, in order that the universities may fulfill the high purpose for which they were created."

"I am happy to be able to say at this juncture that Argentina's university life, profoundly anarchized up to the time of the Revolution, is now slowly reverting to discipline and dedication to study."

With regard to the institutional reorganization of the country, the President referred to his previous recommendations for Constitutional reforms. (See our Report No. 4379 of June 19th).

"The existence of great civic forces to interpret and guide public opinion are necessary complements to institutional reorganization."

"Since the day of the Revolution, I have recommended the formation of genuinely democratic political parties. To escape from the clutches of a demagogy, it is essential that the will of the people should be faithfully expressed in all electoral acts."

"Unhappily, by a multiplicity of circumstances, the political groups opposed to Personalism became disorganized in the midst of the period of decomposition that was at its height when the Revolution took place. It was impossible for them to re-build immediately under the conditions then prevailing."

"What we require in order to return to normality are not emergency coalitions among persons of heterogeneous character in order to win the elections, because such combinations do not permit of good government, nor the execution of programmes. We want solid forces with set purposes, and candidates who constitute guarantees of order, peace and progress."

"I have endeavored by every licit means within my power to bring about the formation of such parties, but I have also maintained myself above politics. My banner has been at all times 'the interests and well-being of the Republic above all else.'"

From M...Argentina

Report No. 4431

September 9, 1931.

-9-

Antonio L. Ruiz
Clerk.

4-1

NOV 17 2657-L-75 1931
81

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

A summary of the political events for the current month is as follows:

On October 6th the Provisional Government issued a decree, approved in Cabinet Council, declaring that the citizens, Dr. Marcelo T. de Alvear and Dr. Adolfo Guemes, whose names have been submitted by the Radical Party in connection with the forthcoming elections, are ineligible to figure as candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the Republic. Dr. Alvear is rejected on the dual grounds of his solidarity with the deposed regime and because less than the constitutional period has elapsed since he left office in 1928. This is a legal point which is contested by the Radicals on the grounds that the wording of the Constitution is ambiguous insofar as it simply states that a "period" must have elapsed before reelection without actually specifying the time. Dr. Guemes comes under the ban as the outcome of his association with the deposed regime. Both candidates consequently tendered their resignation, which has not as yet been accepted by the Radical Party.

A further blow was dealt to the hopes of the Radical Personalists on October 8th when the Provisional Government cancelled the gubernatorial and legislative elections held in the Province of Buenos Aires on April 5th last. Discussion of the measure by the Cabinet was prolonged over several hours, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs who refused to sign the decree, tendered his resignation on leaving the council chamber. Three main reasons are given to support the Government's decision:

Events subsequent to the elections, which are considered to have freed the Executive Power from its promise to respect the verdict of the polls;

Necessity for careful revision of the electoral registers of the Province, which are alleged to have been heavily laden with false and otherwise irregular inscriptions;

The Government's firm decision to prevent the return to power of men closely associated with the deposed regime.

In connection with his resignation, Dr. Ernesto Bosch, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and President Uriburu exchanged letters of a most cordial character, in which the former stated that his resignation was due entirely to his discrepancy with the President of the Provisional Government and his Cabinet colleagues as to the propriety of the annulment of the elections held in the Province of Buenos Aires on April 5th. President Uriburu's letter was an appreciation of the services rendered by Dr. Bosch. The under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Adolfo Bioy, is now temporarily in

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4442

October 24, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

charge of the Ministry.

[Simultaneously with the above-mentioned decision, the Government issued orders for the Province to be convened to fresh elections together with the rest of the country on November 8th.]

Following these events, (an attempt was made by the Radical Party to compromise with the Provisional Government.) On October 20th a note was presented to the Ministry of the Interior by the authorities of the National Committee of the Party with the following specific requests:

Cancellation of all recent decrees barring Iri-goyenists from candidatures in the coming elections;

Immediate lifting of the state of siege;

Freedom to re-open committee rooms that were closed because the authorities found them to be covers for subversive activities.

The "bait", as it were, to influence the Provisional Government to accede to these requests was the [submitting of new presidential candidates. Dr. Vicente Gallo was suggested as substitute to Dr. Alvear, with a slightly lesser known politician in second place. The Minister of the Interior, Ing. Octavio Pico, replied to the document in a tone that showed no trace of any intention to enter into a compromise.] In fact, the requests of the Radical Party cannot be considered in the nature of a "compromise." None of the demands contained in the petition will be conceded, as all these are considered contrary to the stand the Provisional Government has taken with regard to the return to power of the deposed regime.

The Government's unchanged front is reported to have completely disconcerted the party, which it is said was convinced that a promise to choose a new presidential ticket would smooth matters out. As a consequence, many rumours are abroad, and unofficial statements in the Press are of the opinion that the Radical Personalist Party will definitely abstain from participation in the national elections. There is also talk of splits in the Party, with Dr. Alvear leading one tendency and Dr. Vicente Gallo the other. Dr. Gallo would lead his sector into the electoral fray, while that professing loyalty to Dr. Alvear would abstain from going to the polls.

G-2 Report

3610

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: National Elections.

Upon our return to the Argentine we found the political situation very tense but quiet. There were the usual rumours of threatened disorder but nothing appeared on the surface. The crowd of discontented Personalista politicians recently expelled from the country occupied their time in Montevideo by doing everything possible to make the public believe that without them there could be no election and if the proposed election took place it would do so amid scenes of great unrest and possible fighting.

The election day passed off probably as the most quiet in the history of Argentina. There was absolutely no disorder in the City or in any part of the country. The police themselves were more in evidence than on the normal work days or Sundays but there was absolutely no display of force by the soldiers who were conspicuous by their absence. The day preceding the election itself was a day of bad weather, turning very cold and accompanied by heavy rain, while election day itself continued very dismal, cold and cloudy. It is believed that the weather had a very great deal to do in making the election in the Capital an extremely quiet one.

However, in spite of the conditions described, the greatest percentage of eligible voters, with the exception of one other occasion, voted in this election, 89%. Inasmuch as the so-called Personalista Radical Party had issued a manifesto to their members to abstain from voting at the polls, this enormous vote was cast, and a very negligible number of votes were cast in blank, which would indicate that this group of Personalistas hold very little sway and their whole show was the amount of noise they were able to make through the Press.

As we predicted in our Report No. 4351 of May 8, 1931, General Justo appears to be the successful candidate and the Vice-President Dr. Julio Rocca. The lead of General Justo at the present time is more than 70,000 in spite of the fact that the Federal District, including the City of Buenos Aires, has voted very heavily for the Socialist-Progressive Democrat Alliance. The lead of General Justo is bound to increase as the country votes are counted. He will lose the City of Buenos Aires and probably the province of Santa Fe, that is, he will lose the majority seats but will retain the minority seats, but in most of the other provinces he is winning both the majority and minority seats. Tucuman and Corrientes have already completed their counting and they have given both majority and minority seats to General Justo, as have likewise Catamarca and San Juan. The province of Buenos Aires and the provinces of Entre Rios and Cordoba will probably be favorable to General Justo, although it is almost impossible to say at this time.

From M.A. Argentina Report No. 4450 November 20, 1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: National Elections.

whether he will get both majority and minority seats. We feel that it is perfectly safe to say at this time that General Justo has been the successful candidate.

There have been a great many charges and counter charges of fraud, especially in the province of Buenos Aires and Mendoza, but not nearly so violent as we expected, and they are being investigated by the Provisional Government. While we have no doubt that there has been some fraud, we have usually found upon questioning that it always happened in the next precinct and we believe that it was no more, and probably less, than in any other election held here. The people making the charges in most cases are people of such bad political character and record that their charges mean very little. However, the Government is actually investigating and making a report on each individual case.

There is no reason to believe at this time that there will be any trouble in the future and it looks as though the Argentine was in a fair way to enjoy a very reasonable Government for the next six years. It will depend a great deal upon the attitude that General Justo assumes towards the present expelled Personalista Radicals whether or not there will be any political strife in the country. We further believe that if the bottom of the economic depression has been reached, Argentina's political troubles are over for some time to come.

E. Fleming
From M.A. Argentina Report No. 4450 November 20, 1931.

3-2 Report

2657- L-75

4-1

3610

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: National Elections.

The political situation becomes more tranquil daily and the tension of the past year seems to have been considerably loosened. Even the rumours become less, although one or two incidents of subversive propaganda have been uncovered. In this morning's paper we note that as a result of a raid last May, a Colonel Adalid of the Army was dismissed. No specific charges were published, but the paper states the following:

"By a decree issued yesterday, Lt.Colonel Sabino Adalid (Staff), was dismissed from the Army and placed under arrest for attending subversive political meetings."

"Colonel Adalid was among those arrested on May 23 in a raid on a department on the second floor of Calle Callao 1070, which for some time had been under the surveillance of the Police. Other arrests made were Sr.Galileo Taddai, Dr.Pablo Morodia, Sr.Juan Giordano, and Ernesto Scabiolo."

"Colonel Adalid was immediately placed on board the warship Buenos Aires until further orders."

Also, there was a rumoured attempt of exiled Correntinos now in Paraguay, to return to the Province of Corrientes, but this rumour was proved to be false.

As we prophesied in our last report, the votes, with the exception of the Federal Capital and the Province of Santa Fe, have all been overwhelmingly for General Justo, [the candidate of the Conservative Radicals and Anti-Personalistas.] We give below a list of the electors to which each Province is entitled and also the list showing how they will vote as the result of election returns. The total vote for General Justo up to the night of December 1st is 725,571 and De La Torre - 428,374.

ELECTORS.

Districts.	Majority	Minority.
Federal Capital	46	22
Buenos Aires	59	29
Santa Fe	28	14
Cordoba	23	11
Entre Rios	15	7
Corrientes	12	6
Tucuman	12	6
Mendoza	11	5
S. del Estero	11	5
San Juan	7	3
San Luis	7	3
Salta	7	3
Catamarca	6	2
Jujuy	6	2
La Rioja	6	2
	255	120

From M.A.Argentina

Report No.4455

December 3,1931.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: National Elections.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.
(Electors)

<u>Provinces</u>	<u>Justo</u>	<u>De La Torre</u>
Federal Capital	22	46
Buenos Aires	59	29
Santa Fe	14	28
Cordoba	23	11
Entre Rios	7	-
Corrientes	18	-
Tucuman	18	-
Mendoza	11	5
S. del Estero	16	-
San Juan	10	-
San Luis	7	3
Salta	7	-
Catamarca	8	-
Jujuy	6	2
La Rioja	8	-
Total	234	124

While our total shows that Entre Rios has 22 electors, that Province had an independent ticket opposed to the former administration, but in which General Justo did not appear. That ticket was the Barroetavena - Matienzo, and they were successful, while General Justo and Roca gained the minority votes of seven. The Province of Salta which is entitled to 10 votes likewise had an independent Anti-Personalist ticket of Laurencena and Barroetavena. This ticket was successful in securing the minority of electors, which will only serve to throw their presidential vote out. However, in this province General Justo managed to gain the majority of electors, seven in number.

Among recent rumours was one which said the President was about to vacate his post, now that the elections were over, in favor of Sr. Octavio Pico, the Minister of the Interior, and this because of ill health. However, the rumour was promptly denied by the proper authorities.

We believe that as soon as the National Congress is assembled, or probably sooner, a political amnesty will be declared allowing all expelled "politicos" to return to the Argentine. As most of the minor politicians have already been allowed to return, there are only a few of the principals left. We do not believe, however, that this will include men against whom criminal charges have been filed, such as the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Horacio Oyhnarte, the former Director General of State Railways, Engineer Manuel J. Claps or Lt. Colonel Gregorio Pomar who is charged with the murder of Lt. Colonel Lino H. Montiel.

G-2 Report

3610

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: National Elections.

As the result of the election becomes a certainty, we hear many rumours of appointments to Cabinet posts. The two mentioned for Army and Navy are as follows: Colonel Manuel A. Rodriguez to be Minister of War, and Admiral Enrique G. Fleiss to be Minister of Marine. Both or either would be excellent appointments.

Everyone is ready to welcome the return to a constitutional form of Government, especially the Army and Navy.

E. Fleming
From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4455

December 3, 1931.

4-1
2-2 Report

REC'D
2657-2-75
84

PARAGUAY (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(c) Radicalism

On January 3rd, a revolt led by exiled adherents of the Irigoyenist regime took place in the Town of La Paz, in the Province of Entre Rios. The rebels were led by one Mario Kennedy, formerly an Irigoyenist "political boss" and desperado in Entre Rios, and his two brothers Jorge Roberto and Eduardo.

The latter two brothers were formerly of the Radical Party, but adherents to the principles of the Provisional Government, and it is not known at what time they decided to join their brother in this foolhardy and ludicrous revolt.

At dawn on the morning of January 3rd, Mario and his followers, numbering [between fifty and one hundred men] surprised the town of La Paz, which had as yet not arisen, and [attacked the police station where they killed the comisario and two police officers. They also took over all means of communication, and cut the lines outside of town, isolating the town of La Paz from the rest of the country. Their success was very short-lived, as a lieutenant of the Maritime police on leave in the town of La Paz succeeded in mobilizing in a short space of time a greater force of police and civilian volunteers, well armed, and drove the invaders from the city.] It is very difficult to show how any right-thinking person could believe that such an attempt could be successful, or could end in any other way than a complete rout and the exiling from their homes of those participating. [The Kennedy brothers are known to be extensive owners of property in the Province of Entre Rios.] The only possible advantage that could be gained from such a revolt, which of course the Press viewed as a military incident, was the unfortunate effect it had on Argentine credits abroad. However, this effect on credit was of short duration.

In following up the pursuit of the rebels, which was ordered by the Governor of Entre Rios and the Military Commander in Parana, of the same Province, the police once more came into contact with the rebels and a sharp encounter took place in which two more policemen were killed and four wounded, while the rebel dead were estimated at five killed, and five wounded, among the wounded being Mario Kennedy, the leader. [Owing to their short-lived success in this scrimmage, the rebels once more commenced a movement against the town of La Paz, only to be bombed by two of the Government aeroplanes, whereupon their party broke up and fled in confusion. Between twenty and thirty were captured and are awaiting the disposition of the authorities. The leaders have fled into Uruguay.]

The affair has, however, been made something of a diplomatic issue. [It has been ascertained that the revolt was instigated by Argentine exiles in Uruguay.] We

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4487

January 15, 1932

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(c) Radicalism.

have in previous reports (See 4402 of July 31, 1931 and 4312 of March 12, 1931) brought up this question of Uruguay's responsibility with regard to the harbouring of political exiles and the question has once more come to the fore.]

[According to the Press, the movement originated in Salto, Uruguay, with the following former officers of the Argentine Army as the principle ringleaders: General Severo Toranzo, who at the time of the Revolution was Inspector General and later was exiled owing to his political activities and attempt to incite a counter-revolution; Lt. Colonel Gregorio Pomar who was identified with the revolt in Corrientes and was guilty of murdering his commanding officer and who, at the time of the Revolution, was an aide-de-camp to ex-President Irigoyen; Lt. Argentino De los Rios, Lt. Juan C. Franco, and Lt. Cesar A. Valotta, who were associated with Colonel Pomar in his affair in Corrientes, also Major Sebastian Baldassare, who was engaged in anti-government propaganda here, as well as the former Minister of Public Works Jose C. Abalos, who was known as the instigator of the revolt at Corrientes in July of last year, the letters he had written to Lt. Colonel Pomar having been discovered and were later published in the papers.]

[We do not believe, however, there has been sufficient proof that any of these officers were involved in the plot. While it is very likely that Colonel Pomar and his associates were involved, we hesitate to think that General Toranzo would involve himself in such a stupid movement.]

[The rising was intended to take place on November 8th, the day of the National Elections, but owing to a number of hitches had to be postponed.] The Argentine Government authorities and military officials claimed to have known of the plot some time in advance, but did not know the exact date or place at which they expected to launch their movement. They also claim that they were well prepared to take care of any extensive movement. It was reported that the rifles were brought from Brazil and they, together with other materials were stored at Salto, Uruguay. There were also rumours to the effect that Uruguayan Army Officers accompanied the Argentine exiles with arms and ammunition, but these rumours were denied by General Bravo, Chief of the First Military Zone in Uruguay.

Although there was a certain amount of criticism of the Uruguayan authorities in the Argentine Press, the note sent by the Argentine Government to Uruguay was not made in what may be considered unfriendly terms. [According to statements in the Press, the note pointed out to the authorities of Uruguay that the Argentine Government had positive information that the uprising had been prepared in Uruguay, and the Uruguayan Government has been requested to ensure that exiled Argentines refrain from further political

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(c) Radicalism.

or anti-Argentine activity and be prevented from reentering Argentina.

The reply of the Uruguayan Government was not entirely satisfactory to the Argentine. It was also couched in friendly terms stating that strict vigilance had been exercised by the authorities along the river coast, and that no armed groups, that could be identified as such, had passed over to the Argentine shore. If any persons had done so, it had been in isolated fashion, making all vigilance futile, but that in deference to the Argentine Government, instructions would be issued to the police and military authorities to submit more details.

The reply not being entirely satisfactory, a second note was addressed to the Uruguayan Government in which the points brought out in the first note were insisted upon.

According to the latest information, the Uruguayan Government is to take firm measures against the Argentine exiles. The exiles were invited to present themselves voluntarily at the Ministry of the Interior in order that they might be notified that so long as they remain in Uruguayan territory in accordance with the right of asylum conceded to exiled politicians, they must abstain from all manifestation of public censure of the present Argentine authorities. This request was complied with by General Toranzo who has given his parole to the Uruguayan Minister of the Interior not to engage himself in Argentine political activities during his residence in Uruguay. He has, therefore, been permitted to reside in Montevideo under police surveillance. Accompanied by a police officer, Dr. Abalos and five exiled Argentines who participated in the revolt have also presented themselves to the Government. It has been decided that Dr. Abalos must choose between residence in La Paloma, Province of Rocha, or else leave the country. This morning's paper states that Colonel Pomar was detained in La Paloma and brought to Salto from where he will be conducted to Rivera and obliged to cross over to Brazil, as the Government will not allow him to remain in Uruguay.

The attitude between the two neighbouring countries is not the healthiest. From the Uruguayan point of view, they feel that the Argentine has not been too friendly in the past; that during all of their revolutions, of which they had many, all were concocted and the plans laid in Argentina before they were worked out on the ground in Uruguay, so that they do not feel that there should be any particular resentment on the part of Argentina if exiles from the Argentine should concoct a plot or two against the Argentine Government. Of course, this is not logical and not conducive to the best diplomatic relations between the two countries. In spite of the friendly notes that

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(c) Radicalism

have been exchanged between them, we have heard that President Uriburu expressed himself that if it were not for the peaceful initiation of the constitutional government here in the near future, and the welfare of his own country, he would not hesitate to place a couple of battleships off Montevideo and, if necessary, severely chastise her for the attitude she has taken. It is also personally known by the writer that the President of Uruguay and his Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sr. Juan B. Blanco, of whom there is no lower rascal in the world, are on very friendly terms with the political enemies of Argentina, Sr. Blanco being an intimate friend of the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sr. Moracio B. Oyhanarte, in Argentina. It was Sr. Blanco who helped Sr. Oyhanarte to escape. They are birds of a feather and of the lowest moral and political type. On the day of the uprising in La Paz, it is personally known to the writer that President Terra of Uruguay had luncheon at the Carrasco Hotel with two prominent Radical Personalistas - Dr. Jose Luis Cantilo and Dr. Adolfo Guemes, who were in Uruguay to confer with the leaders of the Argentine Radical Personalist Party about the future plans of that party. This according to their own statement was the purpose of their visit. Also at the table were Sr. Bullrich, formerly of Argentina, and Dr. Andres Ferreyra, a noted Irigoyenista living in exile. Upon the return of Dr. Cantilo and Dr. Guemes to Argentina, they were placed under arrest until they could explain themselves and their non-complicity in the political movement at La Paz.

From H.A. Argentina

Report No. 4487

January 15, 1932

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations:

In re your Evaluation of November 20th, our Report No. 4442, I.G. 3410, the gap in information concerning presidential candidates between the reports mentioned was probably due to the fact that the writer was on leave in the United States during that time.

In the elections of November 8, 1931, Dr. Lisandro de la Torre was proclaimed a candidate for President of the Republic by a coalition of the Socialist Party and the Progressive Democrats. This was his first return to political life after a period of several years during which time he had devoted himself to the management of his property in Cordoba.

There was very little change in the political situation as it did not appear from the beginning that the Socialist-Democratic candidate would have a chance on the national ticket. (It was always generally conceded that this ticket would win the Province of Buenos Aires, but that nationally they must lose the election.)

Dr. Lisandro de la Torre, the son of Lisandro de la Torre, was born on the 6th of December, 1868, in Rosario and began his education in the Colegio Nacional of the City, but for his University studies went to Buenos Aires where he won his degree as Advocate in 1889. On leaving the University he turned his attention for a brief period to journalism, but his predominant interest lay in land and agriculture to which he soon devoted his efforts. In 1902 and 1903 he visited the United States to study the methods of cattle raising in Texas and other South-western states so as to apply them later upon his own extensive properties.

Dr. de la Torre has been President of the Sociedad Rural, the principal landowners organization of Argentina; President of the Farm Market; Vice-president of the board of the Centenary Hospital; President of the Provincial Committee for the Protection of Agriculture; President of the Southern League; National Deputy from 1912 to 1916 and candidate for the Presidency on the ticket of the Progressive Democratic Party in 1916. He was also in 1919 candidate for Senator for the Capital. His published works are confined to magazine and newspaper articles and pamphlets, for the most part political.

Dr. de la Torre is a man of wavering political ambitions, and while he has held some very distinguished posts in the past, he has been known and proved to have used the various posts for his own personal gain. During the recent campaign for presidency, some of these charges were brought to light, but not pursued. As a result of having accepted the candidacy of this party, Dr. de la Torre lost considerable standing as a man of position in the country for he renounced the class with which he was raised and, as Colonel Manuel A. Rodriguez, President of the Military Club and mentioned as the next Minister of War, put it "by accepting the principles of Socialism, he has renounced his God."

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4488

January 15, 1932.

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Combat)

Subject: Personnel.

(d) Who's Who on Commissioned Personnel.

The Provisional Government has issued orders concerning the action to be taken against those army officers arrested in connection with the rising in Corrientes in July of last year when Lieutenant Colonel Lino H. Montiel, Chief of the 9th Infantry was killed.

The following have been dismissed from the service; Lieutenant Colonel Juan R. Costay and Major Narciso del Valle, ex-chiefs of the 25th military district; Lieutenant Carlos Teisaire; Lieutenant Bertran Simo (Ret); Sergeants C.A. Cendrolla, Enrique P. Ferrari and Juan Almiron. The accused are dismissed as having indulged in activities against the Provisional Government with the declaration that their honor and good name have not been involved.

Military Aviation Captain D. Abel Gonzalez Lopez has been dismissed from his post and placed under six months arrest, for not giving notice to his superiors of the trouble. Lieutenants Guillermo J. Canestro and Jorge Rodriguez have also been similarly treated. When the officers mentioned have finished their respective sentences, they will be again arrested under the powers of the civil courts by order of the Government.

4-1
JAN 12
2657-75
87
3410
1932
DEPARTMENT

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations:

On January 24th, six days before the Electoral College convened for the election of President and Vice-President, it was announced that the Radical electors for Santa Fe had decided to withdraw their support from the candidature of Dr. Nicolas Matienzo for the vice-presidential office in favor of Dr. Julio A. Roca. This decision solved a problem which had been occupying political circles during the past few years.

The scrutiny of the votes cast in the National Election showed an overwhelming majority for General Justo, but none of the candidates for the vice-presidency obtained the necessary number of votes. Had this situation remained unaltered, Congress would have been called upon to decide between Dr. Julio Roca and Dr. Nicolas Repetto.

The motive prompting the change in the attitude of the Santa Fe Radicals has been questioned, some being of the opinion that it was less a matter of expediency than a feeling of chagrin at the words spoken by Dr. Matienzo in the Senate at the opening of the Congress when referring to the political situation in Santa Fe, these being regarded as offensive to the Santa Fe Radicals. Whatever the cause, the decision of the Electoral College was received with a feeling of relief by political circles in general.

Accordingly, on January 30th the Electoral College met and definitely elected General Agustin P. Justo and Dr. Julio A. Roca for President and Vice-President, respectively, for the 1932-1938 term. The voting was as follows:

DISTRICT	PRESIDENT		
	Justo	De la Torre	Barroetaveña
Fed. Capital	22	46	-
Buenos Aires	59	29	-
Catamarca	8	-	-
Córdoba	23	10	-
Corrientes	18	-	-
Entre Rios	7	-	12
Jujuy	6	2	-
La Rioja	8	-	-
Mendoza	11	4	-
Salta	10	-	-
San Juan	10	-	-
San Luis	7	3	-
Santa Fe	14	28	-
Sgo. del Estero	16	-	-
Tucumán	18	-	-
TOTAL	237	122	12

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4500 February 11, 1932.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations:

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>VICE-PRESIDENT</u>		
	<u>Roca</u>	<u>Repetto</u>	<u>Matienzo</u>
Fed. Capital	22	46	-
Buenos Aires	59	29	-
Catamarca	2	-	6
Cordoba	23	10	-
Corrientes	13	-	5
Entre Rios	7	-	12
Jujuy	6	2	-
La Rioja	8	-	-
Mendoza	11	4	-
Salta	7	-	3
San Juan	-	-	10
San Luis	7	3	-
Santa Fe	14	28	-
Sgo. del Estero	5	-	11
Tucuman	12	-	6
TOTAL	196	122	53

Congress will meet in assembly on February 16th for the proclamation of the future rulers on February 20th, at which date the Revolutionary era will end and the Inauguration will take place.

As a further step towards normalizing the political situation the Provisional Government has issued a decree convoking the provincial Electoral Colleges to elect Governor and Vice-Governor on February 5th. This convocation will apply solely to the provinces where indirect election is employed.

In the province of Santa Fe the political deadlock continues (See Report No. 4499), as the provincial Congress refuses to recognize the mandates of the de facto Government. Until the deadlock is ended, it will be impossible to declare an election of Senators in the Province of Santa Fe. We believe, however, that with the return of the Federal Government to constitutional power, this deadlock will end.

General Agustin P. Justo has announced his intention to retire from the Army before taking office as President. Entering the Military College in 1887, when he was 12 years old, General Justo has seen 46 years of service. While not yet arrived at the age for compulsory retirement, the future President wishes to come to the Chief Magistracy as a private citizen.

There are numerous rumours as to the appointment of Cabinet officers in the new Cabinet, and one rumour is of great importance if true, that is, that the present Minister of Finance, Dr. Enrique Uriburu, will be asked to remain in office. Nothing could be of greater satisfaction to the financial people of the country in general, and, more particularly, to

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4500

February 11, 1932.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.


(b) Current Situations:

the American banking and industrial interests, as they all recognize Dr. Uriburu as the outstanding financial genius of the country and one who has done a great deal to solve many of Argentina's present problems. There is also a rumour that Vice-Admiral Julian Irizar who was recently replaced by Captain Ricardo Camino of the Navy as Maritime Prefect General, will be named Minister of Marine, but there is very little to confirm this rumour.

The outgoing Provisional Government is taking upon itself in these last days of office to do everything possible for the good of the country whether it will reflect on their popularity or not. Unlike party politicians about to leave office, they are not currying favor, but simply looking to the welfare and best interest of Argentina. We call attention to the recent decrees put into force, principally that of taxation. As we all know, probably the fairest form of taxation is that of income tax, and this was recognized by all the great European powers as well as the United States during the first days of the last war, so that in promulgating this tax here, Argentina is at least ten years late. Already there are numerous wails from both the local and foreign industrialists established here, but their cries are all individual, no one denies the fact that the income tax is just and beneficial, but only that they, individually, have been unfairly dealt with. This sort of unpopularity is very difficult for the party politician going out of office, but does not bother the present incumbents as they are not interested in politics.

There have been many other serious decrees also affecting their popularity, such as the strict laws governing citizenship (See our Report No. 4496).

We understand on very reliable authority that all of these recent decrees have been made after a conference and cooperation with the incoming officials, as it is not the desire of the Provisional Government to leave anything to the chance of a possible quarreling Congress, so that they have agreed with the newly elected President to take the responsibility for things he might find very difficult to do himself.


From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4500

February 11, 1932.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
V. M. L. DIV.
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
L-75-
88
1932
W. B. F. A. R. I. G. O. Y. E. N.

2-2

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations.

The political situation since the inauguration has been marked by verbal attacks and denunciations of those followers of Irigoyen who have been compelled to remain silent and keep their peace for the past two years. They are like a kennel full of unleashed hounds - all yelping and barking at one time, but without serious effect. They include all the exiles who have returned, with the exception of those who are guilty of civil crimes, all the political prisoners released from Ushuaia and those thousands of ex-servants of Irigoyen who found their easy mode of living gone when the Provisional Government came into power. We believe that the present Government is handling the situation admirably, and not at all in the manner that these "politicos" expected when their wild denunciations and accusations were published in the Press especially in those publications devoting themselves to sensational news. The present Government has allowed them to go on and even urged them to present all their accusations before the Criminal Courts and let justice take its course. They have not hindered the sensationalist press in their declarations, but by a dignified silence have embarrassed those who expected drastic action to be taken against them.

We relate herewith some of the more important incidents that have occurred during the last hours of the Provisional Government and since the inauguration of the present Government:

Among the last acts of the Provisional Government before going out of office was the issuing of a decree setting at liberty "all those citizens who, through an imperative need of the moment it was obliged to arrest or expel from the country for the sake of peace." Another decree, signed by General Uriburu pardoned ex-President Sr. Hipolito Irigoyen in view of the fact that the fundamental purpose of the Revolution of September 6th had been accomplished and that his arrest was due to an inevitable necessity, not inspired by any motives of vengeance. In the decree it is pointed out that the conduct of the former President is left to the judgment of history.

The pardon granted by the Provisional Government was refused by Sr. Irigoyen and a trial requested. In this he was upheld by the State Attorney, Dr. Gondra. However, notwithstanding the State Attorney's opinion to the contrary, the Federal Judge, Dr. Jantus, resolved that ex-President Irigoyen must accept the pardon issued by the Government "de facto" on its last day of office. In giving his decision Dr. Jantus stated that the National Supreme Court, in its declaration of September 10, 1930, and in later cases brought to its consideration, resolved that the Provisional Government which succeeded that of Sr. Irigoyen exercised all the functions which the National Cons-

From L.A. Argentina

Report No. 4524

March 10, 1932.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(B) Current Situations:

titution attributes to the Executive Power.

These last acts of the Provisional Government were backed by the Constitutional authorities at the first meeting of the new Cabinet when it was resolved that the state of siege would be lifted.

During the first few days of the new Government there was a wholesale return of Personalist Radicals to the country. Among this number were such well known Irigoyenists as Drs. Mario L. Guido, Carlos R. Noel, Jose P. Tamborini, Andres Ferreyra, Pablo Torello, Codulio F. Siri, the engineer Ernesto C. Beatti, Dr. Honorio Pueyrredon, etc., not excluding Sr. Irigoyen himself, who received a great ovation from his followers on his return from Martin Garcia. One of the Conservative newspapers caricaturing the return of Sr. Irigoyen showed him looking upon a great crowd that was cheering him and asking "Where were you on September 6th, 1930?".

Newspapers which had been closed down by order of the Provisional Government reappeared and immediately commenced publishing all manner of allegations against the Provisional Government. Principal among these being the "Critica".

As before mentioned, charges of torture and inhuman treatment were made against the officials of the Provisional Government by numerous persons. The main charges, presented by Dr. Mario Reborra, Attorney of the Union Civica Radical, were made by General Ernesto Baldassarre and supported by Dr. Jose P. Tamborini, ex-Minister of the Interior during Alvear's term of office, and Lieut. Col. Adolfo Fernandez, ex-Director of the Penal Section of the National Penitentiary, who held this post from 1926 until Dr. Vinas was appointed Director of the Penitentiary by the Provisional Government. With regard to General Baldassarre, it will be remembered that he was first accused of administrative irregularities (See our Report No. 4427 of September 21, 1931) and then of participation in an attempted revolt against the Government. It was on the latter of these charges that he was arrested.

The investigations are now proceeding under the charge of Federal Judge Dr. Jantus. All police officers accused of being authors or accomplices in acts of torture or punishment of political prisoners have been ordered by the new Chief of Police, Colonel Luis Garcia, to present themselves before the Courts and to announce to the newspapers that they will answer the accusations. Accordingly, a joint action for libel has been brought against the editors of "Noticias Graficas" and "Critica" by the police employees.

From L.A. Argentina

Report No. 4524

March 10, 1932.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations:

The names of the principally accused persons which have been published in connection with the alleged punishments suffered during the reign of the Provisional Government are: ex-Chief of Police Colonel Enrique Pilotto and his subordinates - Sr. Leopoldo Lugones, Jr., and Sr. David Uriburu; the ex-Director of the National Penitentiary - Sr. Alberto Viñas; the ex-Minister of the Interior - Sr. Sanchez Sorondo. The following Army officers were also named - Lieut. Col. Juan B. Molina, Lieut. Col. Jacobo F. Parker and Lieut. Col. Antonio Estevearena. The persons making these accusations, of course, leave themselves open not to a suit for libel, but punishment under the penal code for criminal libel, if they cannot prove their charges.

During the last days of the Uriburu regime, Sr. Alberto Viñas and Sr. Leopoldo Lugones, Jr. were given consular positions abroad and Sr. David Uriburu was appointed Inspector of Consulates, the two former having already left this country. Accordingly, in view of the petition made by the Radical Party for extradition, the Minister of Foreign Affairs has decided that the Inspector General of Consulates, David Uriburu, and the Consuls Alberto Viñas and Leopoldo Lugones, Jr. must take action before the Law Courts against the authors of these accusations. The Inspector General of Consulates is ordered to take immediate action, whereas the Consuls Sr. Viñas and Sr. Lugones will be given, due to their absence from the country, the necessary time to be informed of the accusations which have been brought against them, after which they also will take the steps ordered by the Minister.

In order to clear up his position Lieut. Col. Juan B. Molina asked for the constitution of a military court of honor to judge the accusations made by Lieut. Col. Fernandez. The court of honor was accordingly formed, with Lieut. Col. Nicolas Accame as President, but it appears that the court decided not to go into the merits of the charges made, and simply considered whether the accusations made by Col. Fernandez could be considered an insult to his comrade of arms and, in that case, whether it came under the sanctions prescribed by the regulations of the Courts of Honor. The Court finally decided that Col. Molina could consider himself offended by Col. Fernandez, and authorized the former to challenge his accuser to a duel. Accordingly Col. Molina named Lieut. Cols. Alvaro Alvarez and Abel Miranda as his seconds, and the latter proceeded to interview Col. Fernandez. The latter, however, refused to consider the case as a personal one, and said that he had simply stated charges which were also being made by many other military officers, so that the courts should establish Col. Molina's responsibility. He, therefore, refused to name his seconds and at the same

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4524

March 10, 1932.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations:

time decided to send a note to the President of the Court of Honor, Colonel Accame, asking that the Court should pronounce itself on the merits of his accusations.

It is not difficult to understand the contempt of the Army for Colonel Adolfo Fernandez in not consenting to a duel after having made unsubstantiated accusations. He was perhaps guided by the fact that Colonel Molina when challenged by General Alonso Baldrich and a civilian, accepted the challenge and prescribed the conditions as fully loaded pistols at five paces, with each miss, the opponents to take a step forward. The prescribed conditions seem to have bewildered the seconds who have not as yet reached an agreement.

The State Attorney, Dr. Gonzalez, in a petition to the Federal Judge, Dr. Jentus, has asked for further and more definite evidence on all accusations made against former officials. The measures asked for, which will clear up many points relating to the accusations are as follows:

1 - That the Director of the National Penitentiary should state the exact place in which the employees whose duty it was to interrogate the political prisoners did their work, informing also whether other members of the personnel of the establishment participated in the work, giving names and addresses.

2 - That the National Penitentiary issue a complete list of the persons detained there for political reason from September 6, 1930 to February 20, 1932, in order to obtain the evidence of those who have not already given it.

3 - That the Director of the Penitentiary question all the personnel of the establishment, and state who can give any data as to the procedure adopted with political prisoners, and the treatment they received.

4 - That the Director of the Penitentiary send to the Judge a copy of the establishment's regulations, together with the orders issued to the staff.

5 - That the Director of the Penitentiary obtain a statement from the doctors of the establishment regarding the persons they have attended, specifying in each case the ailment, the treatment and the results obtained.

6 - That the Director of the Penitentiary give information regarding the cells called "triangles" which are alleged to have been used for purposes of torture, with a complete description of their dimensions, capacity, etc., and if possible, photographs of them and of the ordinary cells, also a description of the latter, in order to make a comparison between the two kinds of cell.

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4524

March 10, 1932

3/10

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations:

7 - Ocular inspection in the place in the National Penitentiary mentioned in the first paragraph and any others that may be of interest for the purposes of this investigation, in order to establish whether there are any instruments or traces of tortures, and also whether the staff of the establishment could have seen the tortures.

8 - That the Police of the Capital be asked to report if those who allege that they have been tortured have been photographed and identified, and, if the answer is in the affirmative, to report which employees were in charge of this work. The photographs mentioned are to be sent to the Court, indicating the date on which they were taken.

9 - That the police be asked to deliver to the Court full copies of the dossiers relating to persons detained for political reasons, together with photographs, indicating date on which they were taken and any other data available, whether related or not to the matter under investigation.

10 - That the former nurse of the Penitentiary, Miguel Urgarte, be called to give evidence in support of the statements made in various newspapers.

11 - That the court doctors revise all persons who have made allegations of tortures, so that they may report as to any traces they may find.

The Police now find that they are missing 362 dossiers from the Political Section of the Investigation Department. The Chief of Police accordingly issued the following communique:

"With reference to the investigation which is being made in connection with the disappearance of dossiers from the 'Orden Politico' section, and there being a possibility that some of these documents may be in the possession of other departments, or of private persons, the Prefecture of Police reminds them of their obligation to return them immediately, as otherwise they will become liable to the penalties established by penal laws. Whoever may have any news of the disappearance or stealing of the dossiers, or any matter relating to the investigation, it is his duty to inform the authorities, to serve the cause of justice."

Since the lifting of the state of siege, there have been several demonstrations by the Radicals. One incident which took place on February 28th had particularly disastrous results. Various groups of the Personalist Radicals parading the streets after a meeting stopped outside the offices of the newspaper "La Fronda", of which Sr. Francisco Uriburu is the editor, and made insulting cries,

From L.A. Argentina

Report No. 4524

March 10, 1932

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations:

throwing stones at the same time. These were answered by shots from within and the cry "Viva Uriburu!" The casualties were approximately four dead and twenty-six wounded.

Two separate proceedings are now being held in connection with the incident. The first against the persons arrested in "La Fronda" who will be charged with homicide and injuries and the next against several members of the Radical demonstration who will be accused of resistance to the authorities and an attempt against same, it being stated that three shots were fired against one of the policemen who was trying to disperse the demonstration. However, no official confirmation will be available until the judge concludes his investigation which, it appears will take some time.

(Sr. Francisco Uriburu, who is also a National Deputy, was in the offices of "La Fronda" at the time, but was released in view of his parliamentary immunity.) In a statement to the Press, Sr. Uriburu mentioned that the unfortunate incident was due to lack of precaution by the police force. It appears that advice had been received at "La Fronda" that the offices would be burned by the Radical demonstrators. [The building which contains the offices of "La Fronda" also houses the "Liga Republicana", a society who were in possession of the arms used in the attack. On the morning of the incident, various members of the Liga were on hand. When the Radical demonstrators began to hurl stones, they were answered by the Liga in the manner described. In Sr. Uriburu's opinion, adequate precautions originally taken by the Police would have prevented any trouble.]

The investigations so far have shown that contrary to the claim of those attacking the newspaper "La Fronda" - "that all of the fire came from 'La Fronda'", it has been proved that most of the fire actually came from the attackers themselves, and most of their wounds were caused by hysteria and indiscriminate shooting at each other, the majority of the wounds being horizontal ones in the legs, which would not have been possible if fired at a sharp angle from the roof of the house. There seems to be no question of the right of the owners of "La Fronda" to protect their property after they had been attacked and fired upon. All of the defenders of "La Fronda" have been set at liberty and it is not believed that any criminal action will be taken against them after the completion of the investigation. The crowd that attacked "La Fronda" were guilty of direct disobedience of police orders when they did not disperse and go to their homes after the Radical meeting.

The Government has been tightening the lid very gradually by making it difficult for persons to obtain

From M.A.Argentina

Report No.4524

March 10,1932

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations:

permission to hold public meetings or form parades. It has been made a police offense for any person or persons to indulge in an outcry either for or against any politician or political party, such as "Viva Uriburu" or "Fuera el Dictador." The Minister of War has also forbidden any officer of the Army to grant an interview, have his picture taken, or write any article for the Press without first securing the permission of the Minister of War, under pain of disciplinary action.

According to their own statements, it is the firm intention of the returned radicals to do the utmost in their power to once again make the Radical Party the prime political factor in Argentina, as it was in the past.

Already a petition for the dissolution of the Legion Civica has been presented on the grounds that it is an "illicit association whose object is the perpetration of a long series of crimes against the authorities and constitutional order." It was even attempted to accuse General Uriburu of homicide for the executions carried out during his regime, but this was over-ruled by the State Attorney.

The legality of the elections of the Province of Buenos Aires is also being questioned by the radicals. In this they are supported by the Socialist Party who refused to accept the annulment by the Provisional Government of the first election and did not participate in the second, the Conservatives thus having a clear field. It is stated that the Radicals intend to set up a rival government in the Province and that they will take to the Provincial Supreme Court the question of the legality of the acts emanating from the legislature elected on April 5th.

However, we believe that all these attempts at discord and denunciation of the Provisional Government is but the swan song of the Radical Party in Argentina, and it is almost impossible for us to see how, short of a revolution, they can expect to make any headway for the next six years. Everything is peaceful and normal here, business compares favorably with other countries of the world in the present crisis, and Argentine bonds and securities are rising on the New York market. We feel sure that this Government will succeed and that so far it is marching along in a very dignified manner ignoring the expelled political vagabonds and their sensational howlings, which can come to naught. As an example of this, ex-President Irigoyen wrote a note to the present Government stating that he did not intend to cause any trouble or disturbance and that if his presence in the center of the city was embarrassing or inconveniencing the Government, he would sacrifice himself and move to the camp. He was answered by a very polite letter from the Minister of the

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4524

March 10, 1932

G-2 Report


3410

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situations:

Interior thanking him for his courteous consideration and advising him that he was not the slightest bit of trouble, and, as far as the Government was concerned, they did not care where he lived.


From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4524

March 10, 1932

4-1
MAR 10 2657-L 75
89
3020

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(c) Radicalism

The Personalist Radical Party continues in a state of disruption.

Shortly after President Justo took over the reins of government, an attempt was made by the Personalists Radicals in the Province of Buenos Aires to win over the Socialist sector and set up a rival government in the Province. This rival government was to be composed of the candidates elected in April 1931. As will be recalled, the April election was annulled by the Provisional Government on the grounds that fraudulent methods had been employed; a new election was called and the candidates elected were Conservative and not Radical. The Personalist Radicals did not get the Socialist backing, and although they continued in their efforts to set up a rival government were finally unsuccessful. A meeting of the National Convention of the Party was then held and it was voted that a general reorganization of the Radical Party should take place throughout the country.

This reorganization is still taking place. The party, although counting with a great number of members, lacks unity. Dr. Marcelo Alvear's return to the country from exile in the first days of the new administration may have signified a ray of hope to the more serious minded Radicals - there was considerable talk of the split in the Radical Party between Dr. Alvear and Dr. Irigoyen dating from the days of administration of the former being patched up - but no special uniformity of the party has resulted as yet. There is no doubt but that it is the idea of some of the higher type leaders of the Radical Party to organize and in an orderly manner eventually bring pressure to bear on President Justo, who would probably resign and the country would then proceed to new elections. But, the party is large, not controlled by big leaders, but by small leaders who want to get back to the old ways and means of grafting. It is thought that the Radicals are also handicapped with a great number of anarchists and professional troublemakers.

Since the beginning of President Justo's administration, subversive plots directed against the Government have been discovered from time to time, but in the aggregate they amount to nothing. The last of these uprisings has been the most sensational. Sponsored by Lieut. Col. A. Cattaneo, Ret. of the Argentine Army, a plan was drawn up to kidnap President Justo. Various stores of bombs were discovered by the police at different points, and from all the indications it seems that the plot was destined to be a veritable "reign of terror." From the start, the Government had the situation well in hand. A state of siege was declared almost immediately and many radical newspapers were closed down. Wholesale arrests were made among the members of the Radical Party.

From M.A. Argentina Report No. 4639 February 9, 1933

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(c) Radicalism

The most prominent of those arrested were Colonel A. Cattaneo, Ex-President Irigoyen, Ex-President Alvear, Dr. Adolfo Guemes, vice presidential candidate, Dr. Honorio Pueyrredon, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador to the U.S.A., Dr. J.P. Tamborini, former Minister of the Interior, and General Luis J. Dellepiane, former Minister of War, also Dr. Carlos M. Noel, Mayor of Buenos Aires during Alvear's administration.

Colonel Cattaneo has been committed for trial and is now in the National Penitentiary. There has been no evidence found to justify the detention of Drs. Alvear and Guemes. However, they are still under arrest at Martin Garcia by reason of the prerogatives granted to the Government under a state of siege. Dr. Alvear has petitioned that he be allowed to leave the country and his petition will be referred to the Federal Judge. Drs. Tamborini, Pueyrredon and Noel have been ordered to San Julian by the National Government, in accordance with the state of siege regulations, and in view of their decision not to exercise the option of leaving the country. General Dellepiane has been released. Dr. Irigoyen's state of health is very poor and he is at his home undergoing medical treatment.

It is thought that Colonel Cattaneo and his immediate group of followers were the only really responsible parties for this uprising, and that the other radical leaders mentioned above would not associate themselves with this type of revolution. There are also various Army officers mentioned in connection with the plot, but, as the Minister of War has pointed out in a statement to the Press, these officers have retired from the Army and should not be confused with the present day military.

There is no doubt but that the Government of President Justo is strong and that he himself is comparatively safe so long as he "plays ball" with the "Uriburistas" or Conservative element of the National Party. There were many rumours for a while in June last year regarding a conspiracy among the Conservative or National Democratic sector against the Government. It was reported that a state of Facismo would be imposed on the country. From various contacts it has been ascertained that these rumours arose out of the fact that President Justo is inclined to have certain Radical leanings, or, at any rate, that he is less autocratic in outlook than the "Uriburista" element. In the first days of his administration he showed a marked leniency towards the Radicals. He was not successful in obtaining the Radical backing by his leniency (due to the origin of his Government) but he did upset the Conservative element of his Government. General Francisco Medina and General Nicolas Accame, leaders of the military Uriburista faction, with

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4639 February 9, 1933

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(c) Radicalism

great influence in the Army, gave President Justo to understand that should he play too much to the Radicals they would throw him out, but that he would be safe so long as he played to the "Uriburistas."

With rumours widespread in the Government, the Socialist sector proposed a coalition of the political parties to fight any attempt to set up a dictatorship. The Conservatives were not invited to join in this coalition, a fact which was greatly resented by the less Conservative members of the schism in the Conservative (National Democratic) Party. However, the rumours were effectively stopped by an interpellation of the Minister of the Interior, who, speaking for the Executive Power, stated that the Government had no concrete information of any acts which might endanger the constitutional form of Government, and that the rumours had been circulated by irresponsible persons who wished to create disquiet and confusion.

President Justo appears to be continuing to walk in the "straight and narrow path" and his last official action has been to place in key positions all officers of the Army and Navy whom he knows that he can rely upon. As mentioned above, while he maintains this attitude he is comparatively safe. So far President Justo does not seem to have done anything outstanding, but through his Minister of Finance - a strong man - has kept Argentina from defaulting on her foreign obligations. Moreover, as long as General Manuel A. Rodriguez remains in his post as Minister of War, President Justo is assured of the faithfulness of the Army.]

Frederick D. Sharp
Capt 65MA

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4639

February 9, 1933

FOR OFFICIAL USE
ONLY

4-1

2657-L 75 1934

G-2 Report

302090

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(b) Stability of Present Administration.

On the 27th of December, the convention of the Radical Party met in the city of Santa Fe. Delegates from the entire Republic assembled in this active radical center. The leaders of the national party, Dr. Marcelo Alvear, José Cantilo, Honorio J. Pueyrredon, and Adolfo Guemes were accorded an ovation by the assembled delegates and the townspeople upon their arrival in the port from Buenos Aires. The results of the party election of convention officers resulted in the following selections: Dr. Honorio Pueyrredon, President; Señor Eduardo A. Nuñez, 1st Vice President; Dr. Lisandro Solos, 2nd Vice President; Señores Gilberto Sosa Loyola, Luis Mackay, Eduardo Padilla and Francisco Byto, Secretaries. Two committees were formed, namely - Political questions and Reform of statutes. The convention was to have been concluded on December 30th, but various outbreaks occurred perpetrated by unruly groups of Radicals in Santa Fe, as well as in other northern parts of the Republic.

The national capital group consisting of some fifty delegates, headed by Dr. Alvear, decided not to present any candidates and to abstain from voting at the forthcoming elections. By this they hope to hamper and embarrass President Justo and the constituted authority to the end that he will resign and declare the Congress illegally elected and, therefore, dissolve it, opening the country to national elections, when the Radical Party could again come into power due to their voting superiority.

Many radical haranguing speeches were made by the leaders of the party, calling attention to the deficiencies and errors of the government which came into power on the 6th of September, 1930. This is more or less ancient history and is used to play on the emotions of this group of people, which are of the lowest class and intelligence and which make up, in general, the Radical Party.

It is thought not out of place to review, at least in part, some of these alleged grievances which are as follows: The Radical Party had the intention of participating in the elections called for by the "de facto" government and took part in the provincial elections, and also desired to participate in the national election of November 8, 1930. The Provisional Government suppressed the voting when it cancelled the elections in the Province of Buenos Aires, and excluded the Radical Party from the elections of November 8th and when it vetoed the presidential formula and the national and provincial candidates. Other speeches concerned the sinister hours of history in which confinement, banishment, imprisonment, martial

From M.A. Argentina Report No. 4807 January 3, 1934.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(b) Stability of Present Administration.

law, sanguinary measures and tortures darkened the political life of the nation, while Dr. Alvear expounded upon the policy of the party concerning the public unrest and the advantages to be derived by the Army and Navy from his leadership.

In the early hours of the 29th of December, armed risings in the city of Santa Fe, Santo Tome, Corrientes and Rosario took place. Immediately the members of the Radical Convention were placed under arrest and confined to the river steamer "General Artigas" in which they had arrived from Buenos Aires.

Minor successes were obtained by the rioters, which included the taking possession of the police stations, post and telegraph offices in the sections surrounding Santa Fe, as well as some pillaging of business houses and the Bank of the Nation in Santo Tome.

The troops of the 3rd Division stationed in Parana just across the river assisted the 12th Infantry stationed in Santa Fe in quelling the riots in that city. In Santa Fe, Rosario and Santo Tome about ten persons in all were killed, while a great number were wounded. It has been learned that at least four hundred are under arrest, while the national leaders assembled at the Convention were immediately sent to Martin Garcia, naval arsenal in the River Plate, and are being guarded by the naval personnel from the destroyer "Catamarca" and troops hurried from the national capital.

After holding several cabinet meetings during the course of the 29th of December, the President declared martial law, or a state of siege, for the entire country for an indefinite period, which, incidentally is the second during his administration.

The text of the martial law decree is as follows:

"In view of the attempts against the public order and the institutions, which have taken place during the late hours of yesterday (29th December) and the first hours of today in various parts of the Republic, and considering that it is one of the primordial duties of the Executive Power to insure internal peace preventing the execution of acts of violence, to which end it is invested with the necessary faculties including those accorded by Art.23 and Par.10 of Art.86 of the Constitution;

"That, on this occasion the Executive Power reaffirms its decision that the state of siege should

From M.A.Argentina Report No.4807 January 3,1934.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(b) Stability of Present Administration.

not affect legitimate activities applied to work or to the exercise of other rights in accordance with the law and without affecting the public.;"

"The President of the Argentine Nation, in Cabinet Council decrees -

Art.1 The whole territory of the Republic is hereby declared under a state of siege."

A certain tenseness existed for a period of several days following the uprising, but from the first the Government by manifesto to the people and through the press acquainted the public with what had taken place. This information and the immediate declaration of martial law did much to quiet the nerves of the nation. Hundreds of telegrams poured into the President reaffirming the people's belief in the Government, as well as offers of all class of assistance.

All is quiet at this writing, due to the fact that the military and naval forces remained loyal, as was pointed out in Report No.4639 of February,1933, and will so remain as long as the present Minister of War and the President are in accord.

The sum total of this radical uprising, although not a part of the radical general plan, is to further point out to the people of Argentina the futility of a revolt against the established law and order and to disgust the people of radical tendencies with this weak, undisciplined, rowdy group, whose only desire is to upset the established order and consequently bring more hardship onto the working classes.

The affair at Santo Tomé, although of international importance, was closely allied to and was a part of the armed insurrection. All that can be learned from information available is that the alleged Brazilian uniformed force did not act under any constituted authority, but was a group of ruffians from Rio Grande do Sul, wearing Brazilian uniforms in order to provoke trouble which would involve the national government.

The general situation of the country, although under martial law, is completely tranquil and normal business continues. At the same time, the Government is in a position of readiness to immediately handle any situation that may arise. All leave in the Army and Navy has been cancelled and those officers on leave recalled. Troops are no longer confined to their garrisons. The peso and Argentine Government bonds held abroad will probably decline in value for a short period, but this should be only temporary.

From M.A.Argentina Report No.4807 January 3,1934.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(b) Stability of Present Administration.

At the forthcoming elections, no new developments should take place. The Radicals not being able to vote, Congress will be made up of the Conservative Party's candidates together with a few Socialists.

Fredrick A. Sharp
From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4807 January 3, 1934.

FOR OFFICIAL USE
ONLY

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(c) Current Situations.

San Juan Disturbances.
Government Intervention

Dr. Federico Cantoni, San Juan's dictator governor, has at last been removed from his stronghold, and his death grip upon the people of San Juan has been forcibly broken by the central government. For a number of years Cantoni and his cohorts have ruled this province with an iron hand. Under a regime of violence and with the abolition of the people's rights, a popular uprising took place on February 21st which threatened to grow into one of national importance.

The central government, in anticipation had dispatched troops under General Juan R. Jones commanding the 4th Division, from Mendoza to assist the Battalion of the 15th Infantry stationed in San Juan. The central government sent from Buenos Aires a national intervenor - Rear Admiral Ismael F. Galindez, and a commission who took over the affairs of the Provincial Government on February 26th.

Upon his arrival Admiral Galindez issued a decree which stated that the provincial government no longer existed and declared the courts and legislative bodies dissolved.

The Socialist paper "Adelante" praises Admiral Galindez for his sane administration and exemplary handling of the situation. The San Juan elections have been postponed for one week and will take place on March 11, 1934, due to the fact that several of the candidates are in jail as a result of the uprising.

Admiral Galindez has appointed new judges for the courts. These have taken the oath and assumed office. All seems to be quiet for the time being.

Admiral Galindez is a high type of individual who is trusted by the Administration. He will clear up the situation in San Juan promptly should he not be interfered with by the central government.

Fredricks Sharp
From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4852 March 9, 1934.

Capt G. S. M. A.

FOR OFFICIAL USE
ONLY

6-1 MAY 26 1934
3020 92

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(c) Radicalism.

Release of Political Prisoners

The Government on April 25th ordered the release of 20 political prisoners now held on Martin Garcia Island and 15 held at Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego.

Among those released from Martin Garcia are Elipidio Gonzalez, former Vice-President of Argentina and Juan B. Fleitas, ex-Minister of Agriculture. Among those to be released from Ushuaia are some of the wellknown Radicals, such as Dr. Honorio Pueyrredon, Sr. Adolfo Guemes and Dr. Carlos Noel.

The following retired Army personnel were released: Lieut. Col. Leopoldo Potoloro, Major Roberto F. Videla, Capt. H. Cordoba and Capt. Ernest Lopez Jordan.

Ex-President Alvear is reported to have sailed from a European port for Montevideo.

The prisoners from Ushuaia are being returned by the Government transport "Chaco" which is under way for that port at the moment.

Everything points to the early raising of the state of siege which was imposed by the Government early in December at the first Radical demonstration, which was the cause of the above confinements.

File

Frederick D. Sharp
Capt Gsm A.

From M.A. Argentina Report No. 4879 April 27, 1934

FOR OFFICIAL USE
ONLY

G-2 Report

3410

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions

(b) Current Situations.

POLITICAL CHANGES IN SIGHT

There has been considerable press comment of late regarding the possible crumbling of the Government Coalition formed at the time of the Revolution in 1930, due to the internal disputes which at present threaten its stability. If it maintains a more or less united front, it is still a question for speculation what its chances will be against the Radicals in the next general elections, now that the latter have abandoned their abstentionist policy and are likely to be considerably strengthened by the incorporation of dissident fractions which have decided to return to the flock.

In an analysis of the political situation and in order to grasp the true significance and object of the "Concordancia" or Coalition, it is necessary to glance back at the situation which prevailed during the last months of the Irigoyenist regime.

The last reputable section of the Radical party was in power, and took advantage of its position to repair its personal fortunes at the cost of the community; the Government was unofficially invested with extraordinary powers, thanks to a servile Congress, ready to obey all orders emanating from the Government House; provincial Governments had to bow down to the central authorities, or face the threat of intervention; free elections no longer existed, and voters were frightened away from the polls or forced to cast their vote for the party in power.

The idea of a Coalition then sprang up as a means of fighting Irigoyenism, and practically all Opposition parties, except the Socialists, united: Conservatives, Anti-Personalist Radicals, Independent Socialists, and a medley of smaller parties from the provinces under various denominations. The Coalition was responsible for the revolution which overthrew President Irigoyen, and when the Provisional Government summoned the country to general elections the parties agreed to continue to present a united front and to support the candidacy of General Justo.

Radicalism had been suppressed as a party for the time being, and the Coalition had nobody more formidable than the Socialist-Progressive Democrat alliance to fight. The latter were badly beaten, although they polled heavily in the Federal Capital and Santa Fe, and the Coalition secured a large majority in Congress.

But with the return to Constitutional Government, the "raison d'etre" of the Coalition had disappeared, namely, the necessity of fighting the common enemy - Radicalism - which placed itself repeatedly outside the pale of the law by reiterated seditious movements, and refused to employ the ballot-box as a weapon for the reconquest of power. Nevertheless, a semblance of unity was maintained among the "Concordancia" parties, who were both in fear of each other and of a possible return of the Radicals to the political arena.

It soon became evident, however, that the heterogeneous collection of political forces were only linked together by the flimsiest of bonds, and that friction was unavoidable, especially as parties

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 5080

February 15, 1935.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions

(b) Current Situations.

which had to appear hand-in-glove in the National Congress were engaged in perpetual bickerings in the legislatures of those provinces in which they were old and bitter enemies.

Corrientes is a typical case of such a situation, for while the Autonomistas and Liberals support the National Government, they are perpetually making charges against each other, and demands for Federal intervention are frequently made in Congress.

Recently, the Province of La Rioja has offered further evidence of the quicksands on which the tottering edifice of the Coalition has been built, and at the time of writing there seems to be a good chance that a serious dispute between the National Democrats and Anti-Personalist Radicals will arise.

In the Cabinet itself, the situation has been no better, and the Government has been on the verge of a serious crisis time and again since it assumed office in February, 1932. The Conservative members, who at first seldom dared to oppose Dr. L. Melo, an old Radical, took new life when Dr. Pinedo entered the cabinet and placed himself at their head, despite his position as leader of the Independent Socialist Party.

The conflicting tendencies which have swayed General Justo now in one direction, now in another have been all too evident to political observers, and only a few months ago, Dr. Melo threatened to resign if the President granted the demands of the National Democrats of Tucuman, supported by the Minister of Finance.

A brief summary of the position of the political groups which formed the powerful coalition of 1930 is as follows:

The Independent Socialists have ceased to exist as a party.

The National Democrats have not gained in strength anywhere. In the Province of Buenos Aires, their prestige has been seriously diminished.

The Anti-Personalist Radicals are faced with absorption into the main branch of the party, and some sections have already joined the Opposition.

With reference to the preceding statements, it should be mentioned that the Entre Rios Radicals have definitely abandoned the Coalition and generally side with the Left. The San Juan Cantonistas, after the intervention which ejected them from power, will have nothing to do with the Government, and it is highly probable that the Anti-Personalist Radicals of La Rioja will follow a similar course.

To bring this summary to a close, Dr. Matienzo's old party, the Defensa Provincial de Tucuman, has disappeared from the political map.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions

(b) Current Situations.

Only the remnants of the old Coalition remain. Although they still control a majority of the seats in Congress, they do so solely through the absence of any real antagonist: the Socialist Party, the only other big political organization, has little influence except in the city of Buenos Aires, and its progress in the provinces is slow.

A storm seems to be approaching and at the present time it is difficult to see how the Coalition is going to weather it. [The Government, never really popular (or unpopular either) has seen its influence reduced by the extraordinary experiments in which some of its ministers have indulged, and the strong Press campaign, with the powerful "La Prensa" at its head, against the measures mentioned.] Individual parties cannot, therefore, expect help from the central authorities, and must look to themselves to fight the dangerous enemy who has decided to come into the open and fight once more: the Union Civica Radical.]

That those individual parties will have the strength to emerge triumphant is extremely doubtful, and even if the Coalition weathers the storms which threaten its unity, its chances of victory, except in one or two isolated districts, are equally negligible. Mutual distrust between its members is already in evidence, and it is fairly certain that the Anti-Personalist Radicals in the Federal Capital will refuse to join forces with the Conservatives and Independent Socialists in the impending senatorial elections, which should prove a "walk-over" for the Socialists.

[The Radicals, unless internal strife leads to a schism, are by far stronger than any existing party, or any coalition of parties that is likely to be formed, and one fails to see how the present Coalition is to withstand the onslaught at the next general election. (There are only three districts, where the Radicals may possibly be defeated: in the Capital, by the Socialists; in Santa Fe, by the Progressive Democrats; and in Cordoba by the National Democrats. Only the last-named belong to the Coalition.)]

Moreover, the Radical Party is likely to be considerably strengthened before the day of the election. At the present time, arrangements are being completed for the return of the Anti-Personalist Radicals of Entre Rios, with leaders like Laurencena, Eguiguren and Aguirozabala, at their head, to the branch headed by Dr. Alvear. In the Capital, the followers of Dr. Naon (there are not many, it is true), have already joined their old enemies, and in Mendoza, the "lencinistas" are doing likewise. (In short, there are grounds for the belief that the unification of the Radical Party is in sight.)]

With a sweeping Radical victory in prospect, the Government is placed in a difficult position, for its majority in Congress would disappear into thin air. Such a situation has evidently been foreseen, however, for signs of a rapprochement, or at least of a truce, between the Government and the Radicals are not wanting

From M.A. Argentina

Report No. 5080

February 15, 1935.

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions

(b' Current Situations.

and Dr.Melo, Minister of the Interior, has ably steered the vessel of State in that direction.

In conclusion, it may be said that there is a possibility of General Justo governing with a strong Radical representation in his Cabinet before his term comes to an end, with the National Democrats at the head of the Opposition.

- ✓ Note: In connection with the above-mentioned subject, see State Department Reports, American Embassy, Buenos Aires, Nos.545 and 585.

✓ *Fredrick W. Sharp*
From M.A.Argentina
Capr 65077

Report No.5080

February 15,1935.

OCT 24 1935
 2657-275-
 94
 3820-1
 MIL. INTEL.
 WASHINGTON

NO OBJECTS OF INTEREST
IN SERVICE OF THE

6-1 2657-L 75

1937
OFFICE OF THE
MIL. INTEL. DIV.
JUN 30 20-26 DEPARTMENT

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA - Political

Subject: Stability of Present Administration.

Within the last two years, the stability of the Government has consolidated itself and there have been no further reactions on the part of the opposing political parties.

Source of Information: Personal Contacts.

Lester Baker

Lester Baker
Lt. Col., Inf.
Military Attache

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

RECEIVED
INTELL. DIV.

2657-L 75-
96

CONFIDENTIAL

October 25, 1940.

6388.

RECEIVED G/2 W D. NOV 2 1940

Subject: Chilean Revolutionary Activities.

To: A. C. of S., G-2, War Department,
Washington, D.C.

1. It is reported from a source which may or may not be reliable, that Doctor Ross, ex-candidate for the Presidency of Chile, is conducting negotiations for a revolution in Chile. That Dr. Ross has the support of the Chilean Ambassador in Buenos Aires. This has been previously reported.

2. It is said that Doctor Ross is well supplied with funds, maintains an apartment in Buenos Aires, and an office in the Plaza Hotel. Further reports state that he is in constant touch with Chile by plane courier and that the month of December has been tentatively designated for the revolution.

3. It is further stated that Doctor Ross has the backing of the Axis embassies here in Buenos Aires.

M. A. Devine, Jr.
M. A. Devine, Jr.
Major General Staff
Military Attaché

MAD:jk

CONFIDENTIAL

486